

How does Climate Change affect the sewerage system?



Adapting our systems for a changing climate

Today, our sewerage system faces significant challenges. Our climate is changing and Melbourne will become a hotter, drier city with more intense rainfall events. This has the potential to impact on Melbourne's liveability.

- Rainfall will decline but intense storms will likely be more frequent.
- Warmer sewage temperatures may increase rates of odour and the corrosion of pipes.
- Stormwater may enter the sewerage system through cracks in pipes which may cause sewer spills.
- Rising sea levels are likely to have an impact at the Western Treatment Plant.

We know the effects of climate change are already affecting services we provide to the community. That's why we're taking action on climate change to address these impacts now and adapt our sewerage system to the challenges we will face in the future.

Preparing for an uncertain future

The Melbourne Sewerage Strategy looks ahead to these and other challenges of the next 50 years. It provides us with a way to use our resources more wisely to enhance our shared liveability and all we love about life in Melbourne, while ensuring the system remains safe, reliable and affordable.

It provides a framework that will guide the transformation of our sewerage system from its current collect-treat-dispose process, towards our shared vision of resource recovery and circular economy.

The past can no longer be used to predict our future needs, so we need to take a more flexible approach to long term planning that builds in and embraces learning and change at all levels from rules and regulations, to assets, equipment and operations to community values and expectations. This will ensure our shared networks can become more resilient and continue providing safe reliable sewerage services for all.

