

# How does population growth impact Melbourne's sewerage system?



## A growing population and increasing urbanisation

Since its inception Melbourne's sewer and sewerage treatment processing systems have had to adapt and evolve to the city's growing and changing population.

Melbourne's population is set to double by 2050 and this will mainly be due to an increase in the mix of high and medium density housing. Rapid suburban growth is expected in the north and west of Melbourne.

With more people living in Melbourne, the need for more sewerage services will increase as well. This will place additional pressure on the current system.

Melbourne's existing sewerage system ranges in age from 10 to over 100 years old and will continue to need upgrading and maintenance, as well as coping with increased capacity needed to service our growing suburbs.



## Safe guarding and enhancing what we love about Melbourne

Generations of Melburnians have lived the benefits of our reliable, safe and affordable system and access to clean water. These are the core pillars of a modern sanitation system – and it's only fair that future generations can continue to enjoy the same.

To ensure Melbourne's long term liveability is preserved, we need to build our shared understanding of the challenges that lay ahead and work together to transform our sewerage system to recover more resources such as recycled water, for re-use.

## A new approach for uncertain times

We have an opportunity to either fix our system so it continues with its collect-treat-dispose process or take the opportunity to transform and reposition the system to meet the needs and challenges of the future by increasing its resilience and enabling the city to become more efficient and sustainable

Melbourne's Sewerage Strategy looks ahead to these as well as other challenges that we will be facing over the next 50 years. It provides us all with a way to use and re-use our resources more wisely to continue enhancing our liveability and all we love about living in Melbourne.