

# Terms of Reference

## Maribyrnong River Flood Event Independent Review

January 2023

This review is being conducted under the auspices of Melbourne Water in its capacity as floodplain manager as prescribed under the Water Act 1989.

The review relates to the Maribyrnong River Flood Event occurring on 14 October 2022 (**Flood Event**). The Review is focussed on the Flood Event as it relates to the urban catchment of the Maribyrnong River, defined as the part of the river within Greater Melbourne. Greater Melbourne is defined as the area within the Urban Growth Boundary and is marked on the [current map of Greater Melbourne](#) (source: State Revenue Office Victoria [Greater Melbourne and urban zones](#)).

The Maribyrnong River Flood Event Independent Review (**Review**) is a technical review that will report on:

- the causes and contributors to the Flood Event in the urban catchment, including any potential impacts of the Flemington Racecourse Flood Wall on the extent and duration of the Flood Event;
- any impact of prior works or activities in the urban catchment on flood levels and extent during the Flood Event; and
- whether any other matters may have significantly contributed to the Flood Event.

The Review will provide a report to Melbourne Water on the findings and recommendations.

### The Review Panel

The Review will be undertaken by a panel which is to be known as the “Maribyrnong River Flood Event Independent Review Panel” (**The Review Panel**)

1. The Review Panel is to include members with the following skills:
  - a. Hydrology and hydraulic engineering
  - b. Strategic and statutory land use planning
2. The Review Panel is to comprise up to three members, including a Chair (**Review Lead**)
3. The Review Panel may seek external advice as required.

### Background to the Review

Following the Flood Event, the Premier announced that Melbourne Water would undertake a review of the Flood Event and the extent to which the Flemington racecourse flood wall may have contributed to its effects.

Melbourne Water has committed to establishing an independent and transparent review process.

To this end, Melbourne Water will appoint a qualified and experienced independent person to be the Review Lead, review relevant materials and provide a report. The Review Lead will be supported by independent technical members to advise on any relevant hydrology and technical input to the planning matters relevant to the review, and to undertake a review of any necessary analysis that may be required to inform the review.

## **Scope & Matters to be considered**

### ***Overall***

The Review should:

1. Describe the specific effects of the Flood Event.
2. Confirm the duration and extent of this riverine Flood Event.
3. Identify and describe any predictions or modelling relevant to the Flood Event.
4. Provide analysis of the impact of the Flood Event compared with predictions or modelling, and the basis for any potential differences.
5. Consider other matters relating to hydrology, topography and population that may have made a material contribution.

### ***The Flemington Racecourse flood wall***

The Review should:

6. Examine whether the Flemington Racecourse flood protection wall contributed to the extent and duration of the Flood Event.
7. Review the efficacy of Melbourne Water's proposed conditions of approval and mitigation measures relating to the wall and their implementation.

### ***The rainfall and flood event***

The Review should assess:

8. The characteristics of the rainfall event(s) across the catchment leading to the Flood Event, including consideration of how these compare to:
  - i. historical records
  - ii. the Australian Rainfall and Runoff Guidelines (2019)
  - iii. flood predictions or modelling that accounts for climate change

### ***Planning for the future***

The Review may provide recommendations in relation to any matter associated with:

9. Melbourne Water's approach to flood modelling and prediction.

### ***Out of scope***

The following matters are outside the scope of the Review:

1. Any specific policy responses.
2. Future potential mitigation measures such as additional flood walls, levees or dams.
3. Overall emergency responses including warnings and evacuation procedures.
4. Flood recovery.

## 5. Broad planning matters including decisions, frameworks and processes

### Method & Timing

STAGES	KEY TASKS
<b>Stage 1: Project setup</b> Oct - Jan 2022	Establishing oversight, Independent Lead, Terms of Reference and Engagement Platforms.
<b>Stage 2: Public submissions</b> Jan 22 – March 23	Receive Public Submissions.
<b>Stage 3: Information and submissions review</b> Feb 23 – May 23	Review Lead considers submissions and considers whether inputs are required from other experts.
<b>Stage 4: Public and expert sessions</b> May 23 – June 23	Review Lead considers/holds expert meetings, consultations or site visits as required.
<b>Stage 5: Report preparation</b> Jul 23 – Aug 23	Review Lead writes up report findings. Melbourne Water may ask questions of clarification only.
<b>Stage 6: Release review findings and recommendations</b> Sep 23	Melbourne Water submit review report to Government. Public release of report.

### Submissions

The Review Panel will consider all relevant submissions and may conduct one on one interviews, workshops, or hearings with invited submitters. When meeting with submitters a quorum of at least two members, one of whom must be the Chair, must be present.

Melbourne Water will retain written submissions or other supporting documentation provided to it until the Panel Report has been released.

All written submissions will be treated as public documents and will be placed online as part of the Review Panel process, with all personal details redacted unless the Review Panel directs that the material is to remain confidential.

### Outputs

The Review Lead must produce a written report to Melbourne Water providing:

- an assessment of the matters to be considered as outlined in these Terms of Reference
- a list of persons who made submissions considered by the Review Panel, and
- a list of persons consulted or interviewed by the Review Panel.

Following completion of any report, the Review Panel may deliver an oral briefing to the Melbourne Water Project Control Group.

## Keep up to date with what's happening

For more information about this project  
please email:

[maribyrrongriver.floodreview@melbournewater.com.au](mailto:maribyrrongriver.floodreview@melbournewater.com.au)

or visit:

[yoursay.melbournewater.com.au/maribyrrong-river-flood-review](https://yoursay.melbournewater.com.au/maribyrrong-river-flood-review)



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