

Frequently Asked Questions

Kilsyth to Croydon South water mains renewal project

What is happening?

Melbourne Water is replacing corroded sections of the water main between Dunrossil Drive (Kilsyth) to Yarraduct Place (Croydon South).

Replacement works will include:

- Replacing sections of the M54, M55, and M56 water mains with two new 1350mm pipelines.
- Most works will be within Melbourne Water's 'pipe track' or grassed reserve, the pipeline does cross some roads, including;
 - Bayswater Road, Croydon South,
 - Dorset Road-Croydon South,
 - Mt Dandenong Road-Croydon and
 - Hawthory Road- Kilsyth.

Why is this important?

We replace water mains to ensure the supply of safe and reliable water now and into the future for our customers and the wider community. Water mains typically last at least 80-100 years. When they leak multiple times in a short period of time, it indicates that a pipe has come to the end of its life and needs to be replaced. The M54, M55, and M56 water mains are between 80 and 100 years old. Leaks have been detected over the last 12 months, indicating that they are nearing the end of their service life and must be replaced.

Why can't the pipe just be repaired?

Due to the age of the pipes, continually repair is not an option. By laying new pipes we can guarantee a life expectancy of 100-150 years.

When will works occur?

The timing of the Kilsyth to Croydon South water main renewal project is critical to ensuring safe and reliable water for approximately 800,000 residents and businesses in Melbourne's South Eastern suburbs.

John Holland has been appointed to provide a detailed design and construct the new water main. Design work is currently underway and works are planned

to commence in March 2023. The work will be completed in sections and is expected to finishing in early 2025.

Will any trees be removed?

To construct the new water main, removal and trimming of some trees along the alignment will be necessary. Careful vegetation management is important for the following reasons:

- The roots of trees and shrubs close to water mains can cause corrosion, blockages and damage, impacting water supply and reducing the service life of water main pipes.
- Trenching and working beside trees can undermine their root systems, making them unhealthy, unstable and unsafe.
- We will also prune trees along the alignment to reduce the possibility of damage from machinery during our works.

Melbourne Water takes tree removal seriously and seeks to avoid it where possible.

What steps have been taken to avoid tree removal?

A thorough process was undertaken to minimise tree removal, including;

- adjusting the new water main location to avoid trees where possible.
- design efficiencies that minimise the project's footprint, and
- use of construction methodologies aimed at minimising impacts to tree roots.

We have worked closely with an arborist and local councils to avoid tree removal wherever possible. Unfortunately, some trees will still need to be removed.

Does the planning permit identify all trees that will be removed?

Melbourne Water's planning permit conservatively advises all potential tree removals for the project. When tree removal occurs, an arborist will be onsite to determine if the tree can be saved. By reassessing trees, when we have a better indication of what is happening under the ground, many trees flagged for removal will be safely retained.

Are the trees identified for removal being replaced?

We recognise that trees are important for the community, and therefore, it is important for the project to consider offsetting or replacing some of the trees. We are working closely with Maroondah and Yarra Ranges Councils to develop a reinstatement strategy that benefits the community. Reinstatement works will occur towards the end of the project in late 2024. There will be an

opportunity for you to provide feedback and more details will be communicated in future bulletins.

What about flora and fauna?

A flora and fauna assessment has been completed for the work area. This assessment aims to determine ecological values within the Project area, the potential legislative implications of these values if present, and provide recommendations for further assessment and next steps required to progress the project.

We will have determined the construction footprint of the pipeline with a focus on the principles; Avoid, Minimise, and Offset to achieve no net loss to biodiversity.

No referral is required under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) or Environmental (EE) Acts.

How will wildlife be protected?

A qualified wildlife handler (ecologist and zoologist) will be onsite during any tree removal to:

- complete a wildlife pre-clearance check before construction
- checking the site for fauna and marking trees likely to have habitat.
- attempting to catch and relocate fauna (without causing it distress). If this isn't possible, the contractors will move to the next tree and return to try again later.
- relocating nests or nesting boxes.

It is preferable to relocate fauna within the same site. If this is not possible, the wildlife handler will advise on a relocation strategy.

What is a pipe track?

Pipe tracks are areas of land owned by Melbourne Water to protect our infrastructure and allow uninhibited access. Trees with large root structures are not intentionally planted on pipe tracks and are discouraged by Melbourne Water. There are approved shallow root plant species that can be planted on the pipe track.

Why are there trees located on the pipe track if they are only going to be removed?

Pipe tracks have an operational function to protect our water supply infrastructure to ensure easy and safe maintenance. This land can also accommodate multiple community benefits such as open space, shared paths and vegetation. Although trees are not recommended to be planted along pipe track, due to the potential damage and impact on infrastructure, over the

years trees and vegetation have been planted. Melbourne Water must consider the operation needs and the community needs in these spaces.

What steps are being taken to inform the community of this project?

A project introduction bulletin was distributed to approximately 8,000 households along the pipetrack between Kilsyth and Croydon South in July 2022. The newsletter explained the need for the project, the methodology being used, project benefits and impacts, including the need for tree removal and trimming. A copy is available on the project web page:

www.melbournewater.com.au/M55 .

A community pop up information session was held in October 2022 and the project team has engaged with the community via telephone, email and individual face to face meetings. This has included engagement with;

- property owners along the alignment, via door knocking
- local businesses
- local environmental groups
- property owners where trees are flagged for removal or trimming
- other stakeholders, including the Department of Transport, Yarra Trams and Yarra Valley Water

Information sessions are also planned for March & April 2023, further information about this will be available shortly on the project webpage www.melbournewater.com.au/M55.

Will my water service be disrupted?

Your water supply is not expected to be interrupted during our works. If you experience any issues with your water, please call Yarra Valley Water on 13 27 62.

What are the work hours for the construction crew?

Most construction works will occur during standard construction hours of Monday to Friday between 7 am and 6 pm and Saturdays from 7 am to 3 pm. Nightworks may be required where the pipeline crosses under roads to minimise traffic disruption. Residents and businesses will be advised if works are necessary outside of these hours.

Will the works generate any noise?



Melbourne Water is owned by the Victorian Government. We manage Melbourne's water supply catchments, remove and treat most of Melbourne's sewage, and manage rivers and creeks and major drainage systems throughout the Port Phillip and Westernport region.



Noise will be generated from the operation of machinery, including large digging equipment. Generators, cranes and noise from the work crew are also expected. Mitigation measures for noise will be implemented where possible.

What are the impacts on traffic (parking, cyclists and pedestrians)?

There will be changes to traffic conditions, including lane and road closures, parking restrictions and alternative driveway access for some properties. Detours will be in place for traffic, pedestrians and cyclists. We encourage you to be careful around work areas and observe signage.

Keeping you informed

Melbourne Water will continue to maintain contact with the community through door knocks, notification letters, phone calls and site signage to ensure you are informed of upcoming works.

To keep you up to date with what we are doing, how the works are progressing and when we will be in your area, we will also provide web updates at: M55@melbournewater.com.au.

Keep up to date with what's happening

For more information about this project please call the project team on 1800 290 769 or email M55@melbournewater.com.au



Interpreter

For an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on 13 14 50



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