

Frequently asked questions

Mount Waverley water main renewal project

What is happening?

Melbourne Water is renewing the Mount Waverley water main (M76) located in High Street Mount Waverley. See map below for location.

Why is this important?

The M76 water main plays an important role in transferring water between Silvan Reservoir, Mitcham Reservoir and Mount View Reservoir.

Renewal of the water main will ensure the supply of safe and reliable water now and into the future for our customers and the wider community.



Figure 1: Project area map and work sections

Why can't the pipe just be repaired?

The pipe was constructed in 1928, has been repaired and relined in the past, and is nearing the end of its service life. Due to the age of the pipes, continually

repair is not an option. By laying new pipes we can ensure a life expectancy of 100-150 years.

Can the water mains go somewhere else?

Water mains connect existing assets such as Mount Waverley, Mitcham, Mount View and Silvan water reservoirs and supply water to water retailers' networks. These pre-determined connection points dictate the alignment for new water mains.

Most of the M76 water main renewal work will be located within High Street Road.

Alternative alignments for new water supply pipelines are limited because existing nature strip contain a number of other services and infrastructure such as drainage, gas, telecommunications etc.

When will works occur?

The timing of the Mount Waverley water main renewal project is critical to ensuring safe and reliable water for residents and businesses in Melbourne's South Eastern suburbs.

Safety Focused Performance Joint Venture have been appointed as the delivery partners for the

project. They started works at the Mount Waverley Reserve in September 2023. The work front will slowly move along High Street Road, finishing at the pipe track near the intersection of High Street Road and Blackburn Road in late 2024.



How will we construct the new pipeline?

Road closures will be necessary when working on residential streets (St Albans/Fleet Street), with some impact on residents. Lane access along High Street Road will be limited to one lane each way in each direction. Each section of work will be in place for approximately three weeks.

Once the pipe installation is complete, the trench will be backfilled to make the road fully available. We will then return to re-sheet the road from kerb to kerb in approximately 100m sections.

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 1 pm.

Nightworks may be required at critical road crossings to minimise traffic disruption. Residents and businesses will be advised if works are necessary outside of these hours.

TREE REMOVAL

Will any trees be removed?

Melbourne Water takes tree removal seriously and seeks to avoid it where possible. We have worked closely with an arborist and Monash Council to avoid tree removal wherever possible. Unfortunately, some trees will still need to be removed.

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 some trees along High Street Road to reduce the possibility of damage from machinery during our works.

The trees near the work area being removed first as trenching and working beside trees can undermine their root systems, making them more unstable and unsafe.

The second stage of tree removal will occur in 2-3 years as part of a later project to strengthen the reservoir embankment.

What is the reasoning behind the removal of these trees?

Historically, Melbourne's storage reservoirs were originally open tanks and the trees provided shade and some protection from dust and leaf litter from the surrounding area.



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.



The Mount Waverley Reservoir Embankment Risk Reduction assessment was conducted in 2017. The problems were identified as the following:

- Potential for Mature Cyprus trees to topple leading to loss of embankment fill and breach of the service reservoir, causing significant structural damage to the embankment and roof, causing an unplanned outage, emergency repair works to the embankment and roof and possible interruption to supply.
- Potential for Mature Cyprus trees to topple on to adjacent housing, vehicles and pedestrians and causing fatalities.

Melbourne Water also has an ongoing program of removing these Mature Cyprus trees as they come to the end of their life. We have several examples where these trees have been removed such as the Preston Reservoir and Surrey Hills Reservoir.

Were alternative solutions considered to avoid tree removal?

With the risks to members of the public identified, a wide range of options were considered, and each was assessed through a thorough risk analysis and mitigation management assessment. The selected option was to remove the trees to manage the safety societal risk.

Other options undertaken to minimise tree removal, include:

- 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.

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 Monash Council to develop a reinstatement strategy that benefits the community. Reinstatement works will occur in line with the Monash Council Masterplan.

When was the Arborist report made available to the public? Was the entire report made available or only parts of it?

An Arborist Report and Flora and Fauna Report were conducted as part of the project's diligence and planning.

Arborist reports are not typically shared with the community but for transparency the vegetation removal notification letter and full arborist report was posted on the project web page in July 2023 at the same time as Council advertised the planning permit.

Can MW confirm the Arborist report and advice was made from an independent party?

As part of our policy, we consulted independent ecologists and arborists to identify trees that can be retained and trees that require protection during construction as part of the project's Environment Effects Statement (EES).

Both assessments were undertaken by independent consultants, engaged by Water for Good, who have completed the functional design for the project. Monash City Council's arborist was also consulted, visited the site and agreed with the report findings.

What about flora and fauna?

A flora and fauna assessment has been completed for the work area. This assessment determine that the environmental conditions of the site are of a heavily degraded, urbanised nature. Therefore, it is unlikely threatened species habitat or threatened communities occur within the project area.

A qualified wildlife handler (ecologist or 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 to a similar habitat nearby. If this is not possible, the wildlife handler will advise on a relocation strategy.

IMPACTS

Will the works generate any noise, dust and vibration?

Some noise, dust and vibration from excavators, trucks and other machinery will be unavoidable during construction. Where possible, our work crews will try to minimise this by varying work activities and deploying water carts.

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

Road as well as traffic switches will occur throughout the duration of the Project. There will be changes to traffic conditions, including lane and road closures, parking restrictions and alternative driveway access for some properties.

The water main replacement along High Street Road will have an approximate 300m long work front that will shift every few weeks as construction progresses. Traffic will be reduced to one lane in each direction on High Street Road.

Traffic controllers will direct traffic, pedestrians and cyclists around the work area during construction.

We encourage you to be careful around work areas and observe signage. Allow for extra travel time.

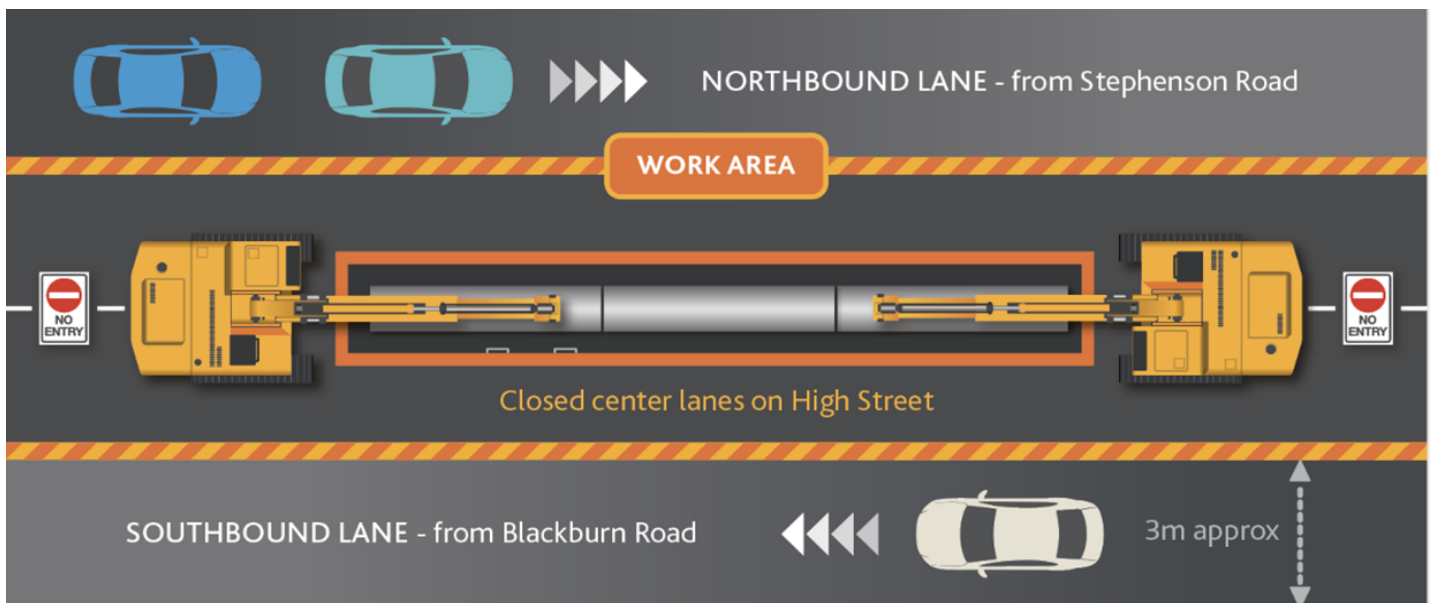


Figure 2: Work site layout and traffic illustration

GET INVOLVED AND INFORMED

How can I get involved on keeping up to date with the project?

A project construction update bulletin was distributed to approximately 4,000 households, in the local area, in October 2023. The newsletter highlights the need for the project, project timelines, the methodology being used, project benefits and impacts. A copy is available on the project web page:

www.melbournewater.com.au/M76.

Information sessions are planned, at **Mount Waverley Sports Pavilion** on the following dates:

DATE: **Wednesday 25 October 2023 (Presentation)**
TIME: **4:30-5:30pm**

DATE: **Saturday 11 November 2023 (Drop-in session)**
TIME: **10:30-12:30am**

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:

www.melbournewater.com.au/M76.

Or you can contact the project team directly at:

Email: M76@melbournewater.com.au

Phone: 1800 931 106