



# Upper Yarra Reservoir Dam Upgrade

## Project introduction

Melbourne Water will be upgrading the Upper Yarra Reservoir dam, located about 5 km east of Reefton. This is an important initiative for residents of Warburton, Reefton, McMahons Creek and the Melbourne metropolitan area, as it will ensure the continued integrity and stability of the dam wall, and that the reservoir can continue to supply world class drinking water for Melburnians.

## Why are we upgrading the dam wall?

Melbourne Water regularly reviews the risk associated with our 16 water supply dams. Understanding the risk allows us to prioritise maintenance and upgrade works as necessary. The management of all of our dams is in line with the Australian National Committee on Large Dams (ANCOLD) guidelines.

The ANCOLD guidelines represent the best Australian and international engineering practice in the safe design, management and operation of dams. Assessments have shown that the Upper Yarra Reservoir dam requires an upgrade to further lower the risk profile and to ensure the risk is as low as reasonably practicable.

This dam safety upgrade will apply current engineering practice, to provide for the safe ongoing operation of the dam.

## Upgrade works

The dam upgrade works will be carried out in two stages between June 2019 to May 2021. The first stage will be completed in the summer months of 2019/2020 and the second stage will be completed in the summer months of 2020/2021. Below is a schedule of works.

### 1. Site set up

From March 2019 we will begin minor works to prepare the site, which will include some vegetation removal, road preparation and stockpile location set up.

The campground will remain open during this time. For safety reasons, after the site set up has been completed, the Reservoir Park will be closed and construction will begin.

You will notice the water level in the reservoir will be lower for the duration of the works.

## 2. Excavation and sand filter trench

From September 2019, we will excavate into the downstream side of the dam embankment and backfill the excavation with a sand filter.

The sand filter will be placed at different depths across the length of the embankment, with the deepest sections being placed on the northern-end of the embankment using a drill rig.

## 3. Reinstatement works

Upon completion of the upgrade, we will reinstate the area of works. We will work closely with Yarra Ranges Council and Parks Victoria in developing a reinstatement plan.

Upon completion of works, we will also improve the campground facilities and we will work closely with Parks Victoria on these improvement works.

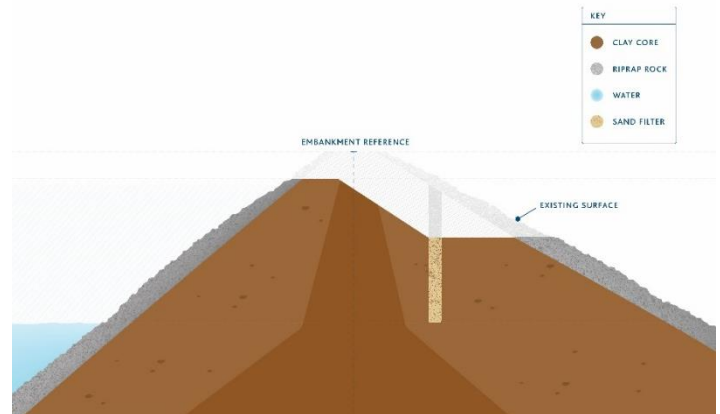


Figure 1: Cross section of the dam wall with the trench backfilled with a sand filter.

## What to expect

During the works, there will be some impacts for park and road users, including:

- Closure of Upper Yarra Dam Road and Upper Yarra Reservoir Park (campground, day use area and walking tracks) for the duration of the works. This is primarily due to the safety risks and impacts the construction works will have on users of the facilities.
- Some vegetation removal.
- Heavy vehicle movements along Warburton Highway and Upper Yarra Dam Road.
- Up to 50 workers on site during the peak construction period.
- Reinstating the site and roads on completion of the works.
- Reinstating and improving the campground facilities on completion of the works.

We thank you for your understanding and support during these important works.

### Keep up to date with what's happening

For more information about this project please call Melbourne Water on 1800 560 755 or visit [www.melbournewater.com.au](http://www.melbournewater.com.au)



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