

# Thompsons Road Retarding Basin Upgrade

## Community Bulletin – December 2016

Melbourne Water is planning to upgrade the Thompsons Road Retarding Basin, located at Lawson Poole Reserve in Cranbourne.

A retarding basin is an area of land set aside for stormwater to drain into during high rainfall events. When a retarding basin fills, the embankment acts like a dam holding back stormwater.

The Thompsons Road Retarding Basin requires upgrade works to ensure it continues to operate safely by protecting properties and the community from the risk of flooding.

### What's involved

We are planning to begin construction work at the basin in February/March 2017. Works are expected to take several months, weather permitting.

We will be working primarily on the embankment of the retarding basin, which is shown on the map below.

Works will include:

- removal of trees from the embankment [see next page]
- construction of a filter trench inside the embankment wall
- localised embankment raising
- works on the inlet and outlet pipes to reduce erosion and blockages
- replacement of the path on the embankment crest



### Why are these works necessary?

Melbourne Water uses the Australian National Committee on Large Dams (ANCOLD) guidelines to assess the safety and compliance of its retarding basins.

Thompsons Road Retarding Basin requires upgrade works to ensure it continues to operate safely and comply with the ANCOLD guidelines.

## Tree removal

To ensure the retarding basin continues to operate safely and complies with the ANCOLD guidelines, trees on the embankment will need to be removed as part of the works.

Having trees on the embankment increases the chance that the embankment may fail in the event of a large rain event. They do this by increasing the risk of:

- Internal erosion and displacement of soil– tree roots create erosion pathways through the embankment which are worsened when the tree dies and its decaying roots leave voids through the embankment
- Trees uprooting and taking part of the embankment with them
- Water speeding up around tree trunks and causing faster erosion

We understand the emotional and environmental importance of trees to the local community and are committed to working closely with council and residents to develop an appropriate plan for reinstatement of trees elsewhere in the basin.

## Working with community

A construction contractor will be appointed in early 2017. The contractor will be undertaking these works on behalf of Melbourne Water.

Once a contractor has been appointed, we will have a better idea of the construction works and impacts. However we do anticipate that public access to some parts of the retarding basin will be limited throughout construction. This will include temporary closure of the path on the embankment crest.

We are committed to working with local residents and other users of the basin to keep you informed of the construction schedule and to minimise any associated impacts.

## Information session

Drop in to meet the team delivering the project and find out more about the upgrade.

**Date:** Thursday 15 December

**Time:** 4pm – 6pm

**Location:** Lawson Poole Reserve, Cranbourne

### Get in touch

Melbourne Water is committed to providing regular updates on the project to keep the community informed.

If you do have any questions or feedback, please get in touch:

**Email:** [rbupgrades@melbournewater.com.au](mailto:rbupgrades@melbournewater.com.au)

**Phone:** 1800 096 546 (Option 1: Thompsons Road Retarding Basin)

### What are retarding basins?

If you'd like to learn more about what a retarding basin is, please head to our webpage or use our QR code:

[www.melbournewater.com.au/retardingbasins](http://www.melbournewater.com.au/retardingbasins)



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