

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 17 March 2023 5:40 PM  
**To:** Maribyrnong River Flood Review  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Submission to Flood Review  
**Attachments:** 230317\_Maribyrnong River Flood Review\_Maribyrnong Council Submission.pdf

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Dear Flood Review team,

Please find attached Maribyrnong City Council's submission to the Maribyrnong River Flood Review. This submission has been prepared by Council officers and has not yet been endorsed by Council. As such we reserve the right to provide an updated submission following consideration at the Council meeting.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit to the review process and we would welcome the opportunity to discuss our submission and the impacts of the flood event further with the Panel.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Maribyrnong City Council  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](http://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au)



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# Maribyrnong River Flood Review

## Submission Template



### How to use this template

This template has been created to assist you with your email or postal submission to the Maribyrnong River Flood Review. It guides you through what information to provide, based on the scope of the review.

You can lodge a submission by:

1. Completing this template and sending it to [maribyrnongriver.floodreview@melbournewater.com.au](mailto:maribyrnongriver.floodreview@melbournewater.com.au) (with subject line 'Submission to flood review') or Maribyrnong River Flood Review, PO Box 4342, MELBOURNE, VIC, 3001
2. [Completing the online form on the flood review website.](#) The online form contains the same questions as this template but it a guided process.
3. Writing a submission without using the template and sending it to [maribyrnongriver.floodreview@melbournewater.com.au](mailto:maribyrnongriver.floodreview@melbournewater.com.au) or Maribyrnong River Flood Review, PO Box 4342, MELBOURNE, VIC, 3001. If you use your own format, please remember to provide your name, phone number and email.

### What to include in your submission

Submissions should outline:

- your interest in the review
- how you were impacted by the Maribyrnong River flood event
- the issues and information you would like the independent Review Panel to consider.

You can provide supporting documents, such as photos, as part of your submission.

The information you provide in your submission should be within the scope of the review as contained in the [Maribyrnong River Flood Review Terms of Reference](#) and focus on the following factors:

- 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.

For more information on the scope of the review, visit the Maribyrnong River Flood Review website.

**If you have information to share that is outside of the scope of the review, you can provide this by [Sharing your Story on the Maribyrnong River Flood Review website](#) or at a community information session.**



# Maribyrnong River Flood Review

## Submission Form



### Contact information

Your contact details must be included to make a valid submission. For more information on why this information is needed see the Privacy Collection Notice at the end of this form.

**Name** [Maribyrnong City Council](#)

**Phone** [REDACTED]

**Email** [REDACTED]

### Your interest in the review

**What is your interest in the review? (select one)**

- ☐ My property was flooded (complete the section 'How you were impacted')
- ☐ I live close to the areas flooded
- ☒ Other interest, please describe: [Local Government Area impacted by Flood Event](#)

### How you were impacted

**Only complete this section if your property was flooded during the Maribyrnong River flood event**

#### 1. Property address

[Maribyrnong City Council](#)

#### 2. Property type:

- ☐ Residence (go to Q3)
- ☐ Investment property (go to Q7)
- ☐ Business (go to Q8)
- ☒ Public asset, e.g park, sportsfield, etc (go to 'Your Submission' section)
- ☐ Other, please describe (then go to 'Your Submission' section)  
Click or tap here to enter text.

#### For residences only

- 3. Is this your usual place of residence? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- 4. Did you have to move out? ☐ Yes (go to Q5) ☐ No (go to 'Submission Details' section)
- 5. If Yes, are you still living elsewhere?  
☐ Yes (go to Q6) ☐ No (go to 'Submission Details' section)
- 6. If Yes, do you intend to return? ☐ Yes ☐ No

## How you were impacted continued

### For investment properties only

7. Do you intend to keep or sell the property? ☐ Keep ☐ Sell

### For businesses only

8. What is your business name? [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

9. What does your business do? (e.g. café, shop, service station, industry, office, etc)  
[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

10. Did you have to close your business as a result of the flood?

☐ Yes (go to Q8) ☐ No (go to 'Your Submission' section)

11. Have you been able to reopen your business yet?

☐ Yes (go to 'Your Submission' section) ☐ No (go to Q9)

12. If No, do you intend to reopen your business? ☐ Yes ☐ No

## Submission details

Use this section to provide any information that you would like to be considered by the Independent Review Panel.

The information you provide must be relevant to the scope of the review; for more information on the scope of the review refer to page 1 of this template.

If you have information to share that is outside of the scope of the review, you can do this by [Sharing your Story on the Maribyrnong River Flood Review website or at a community information session.](#)

Please note that text boxes will expand as you type. If you are using a printed copy of this form you can attach separate pages. You can also submit supporting information, such as images, with your submission.

Maribyrnong City Council welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Maribyrnong Flood Review. This submission has been prepared by officers and we reserve the right to provide further information following consideration by Council.

### Scope of the Review

MCC challenges the narrow scope of the review, in particular the specific exclusion of policy responses and mitigation measures. An analysis of the impacts of existing policy frameworks and mitigation measures are critical to the review if the Panel are seeking to fully understand the causes and contributions of the flood event.

It is acknowledged that the recently announced Parliamentary Inquiry is broader in scope and will cover these elements, however given the role of Melbourne Water as floodplain manager and as a referral authority for development along the Maribyrnong catchment, the review must consider the land use planning framework and make recommendations on potential changes or reforms as part of this review processes. The skills required of the panel members in the areas of hydrology and planning mean that they have the technical experience to make recommendations on changes to the land use planning framework which governs development.



## **Impact of the flood event on Maribyrnong**

On Friday 14 October 2022, 525 properties in Maribyrnong Township were impacted by the flooding of the Maribyrnong River. This included people's homes, businesses and important community organisations such as places of worship. A significant number of community have been impacted by this event and the extent of the health, social and economic impacts are still not fully understood.

This event is much more than just flood waters entering people's homes and destroying their personal belongings. With 525 properties impacted many residents were and continue to be displaced. Residents have reported feeling scared due to the number of strangers that appeared in their street, going through their personal and sometimes sentimental belongings, feelings of isolation because their streets are empty with so many neighbours still living in alternative accommodation and fear that this will happen again soon because they still do not understand what happened and why.

Many residents have never had an experience like this and are now trying to navigate a complex insurance system or face the prospect of not being able to afford insurance to mitigate the financial impact of a future flood event. Whilst Council will work with residents, and advocate for their needs in recovery, issues such as insurance, finding alternative housing, repairing community assets to be more resilient to future events and ensuring residents have the information they need, in their language, regarding warnings and advice are not within Councils power to change or have been raised as issues for many years by local government. We fear that the hesitation in addressing the broad range of issues raised by our community may limit their ability to recover both financially and emotionally from this event.

Council facilities, recreation reserves, open spaces and transport infrastructure were also significantly impacted and damaged by the floods including Coulson Gardens, Footscray Park and community buildings. A number of community organisations and sporting clubs were also directly impacted by the flood with equipment and facilities damaged. Important community events, such as Diwali, also had to be cancelled as a result of the flooding of Footscray Park.

In addition to the economic costs associated with the restoration and repair of these facilities, some of which is not covered by any recovery fund, the inability for the community to access and use these facilities limits the ability for post-flood social connection, which supports the health and wellbeing of our residents.

There was also public health impacts associated with the flood including contamination to soil and the presence of stagnant water after the flood receded. The long term effects of soil contamination, or perceived soil contamination, and unlikely to be known for quite some time.

The financial cost of the flood in Maribyrnong for Council, property owners, residents and business, community groups is still unknown at this stage given the ongoing clean up and repair.

## **Flood Modelling and Warnings**

In the days leading up to the flood of Friday 14 October 2022, information for the community on VicEmergency and information provided to Council from VicSES, fluctuated between major and minor flooding. The final advice, issued on the afternoon of 13 October



regarding consequences for Maribyrnong were limited to a flood that would impact the Anglers Tavern and a couple of residential properties.

The first time many residents were told to evacuate was via inconsistently distributed text messages sent in the early hours of 14 October. The river ultimately peaked at 4.2 metres, significantly higher than Melbourne Water predicted the night before (Refer Attachment 1). On the morning of the flood, we saw families escaping flood waters by moving to the roof of their home and having to be evacuated by boat given the speed and level of the river rise. This fluctuation and advice meant that residents were confused and were not sure how they should respond, if they should respond at all. The early morning text messages, delivered between 4-6am, meant that most residents were asleep during the key warning period.

Melbourne Water also have a key role working with Council and the SES to support the community to be flood prepared. This includes predicting flood levels to enable accurate early warning, issuing emergency advice and door-knocking.

Given the immediate and ongoing health and wellbeing, social and economic impacts of environmental disasters on the community, it is critical that the review analyse the existing flood modelling and warning systems to ensure that SES and Council have access to accurate information to respond to and plan for flood events. Melbourne Water has a key role in managing and protecting major waterways, including regulating development outlined in the State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP). Going forward Melbourne Water have a key role to play in supporting community recovery and emergency planning for floods, including supporting community preparedness.

### **Flood Management and Land Use Planning**

The review must analyse the impacts of urban development along the entire catchment of the Maribyrnong and make recommendations on mitigation measures and land use planning changes.

The Maribyrnong Township is affected by the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) as a result of the potential flooding impacts associated with the lower Maribyrnong River. The LSIO means that planning permission is required to construct a new dwelling or to extend an existing dwelling. Importantly, the LSIO does not trigger then need for a planning permit where no changes to the floor level are proposed.

The result of the existing LSIO control is that dwellings affected by the October 2022 flood are able to be almost entirely demolished down to foundation level, and reconstructed without requiring either Melbourne Water and/or Council permission. Requiring Melbourne Water and/or Council permission would allow consideration of future flooding impacts, with advice given regarding flood preparation and mitigation.

Dwellings currently being reconstructed at the same floor level will be as equally unprepared and/or affected by the impacts of flooding as they were in October 2022. While Council understand this is primarily a decision for the property owner to make, the existing controls are not allowing adequate consideration of future flood events. Council would welcome any review into the existing planning controls to ensure they are fit for purpose.

Further, while the area currently affected by the LSIO was consistent with the areas impacting by recent flood events, the flood levels identified by the LSIO were, in some cases, inadequate to protect homes. The flood data is based on a 1 in 100 year flood event, with the October 2022 flood resulting in flooding above the 1 in 100 year flood levels in



certain areas. Council would support a state led review of flood levels in the wake of the October 2022 flood event to ensure that identified levels take into account the more frequent and intense weather events likely to occur as a result of climate change.

The flood management plan for the City of Maribyrnong must be reviewed as a matter of urgency and should include at least provide two flood level scenarios:

1. Australian Rainfall & Runoff 2019 (ARR2019 - industry standard)
2. ARR2019 plus additional climate change consideration

This would give an understanding of the 'traditional' flood levels from the model plus a 'climate change' flood level for consideration. This data must be kept current and reviewed annually or bi-annually at a minimum to ensure that everyone understands the potential impacts of the next flood. Melbourne Water must be the primary agency for ensuring the accuracy and relevancy of flood mapping in local planning scheme.

### **Flemington Racecourse Wall**

Maribyrnong City Council objected to the construction of the flood wall at Flemington Racecourse. Council had concerns with the methodology used in the preparation of the hydrology report and therefore the modelling relied upon which concluded that there would be no upstream or downstream impacts as a result of the proposed wall. Council also had concerns with the design of the floodwall and engaged a consultant to undertake a review of the design, which identified various limitations and issues and recommended alternative responses for consideration as part of VCAT submission.

### **Summary of considerations for the Review Panel**

As outlined in the submission above, there are number of areas that the review needs to provide clear recommendations regarding to ensure that flood hazards and the impacts of future events can be minimised. In summary MCC requests that the panel undertake the following:

- Analyse the impact of urban densification, including the Flemington Racecourse wall, along the entire Maribyrnong catchment and the effectiveness of existing planning controls
- Analyse existing stormwater management plans/development services schemes along the catchment to ensure they are factoring in updated modelling and climate change scenarios
- Analyse the effectiveness of current planning controls and policy frameworks in the context of the actual flood impacts
- Consider and model potential flood mitigation measures in the catchment integrated with the analysis of the stormwater management referenced above.

Recommendations should address, but not be limited to the following areas:

- Changes to modelling and prediction systems and improved transparency for the public on how flood warnings and predications are measured
- A state-wide program to support the community with flood preparedness, similar to the campaigns and education around bushfires
- A state led approach to planning reforms for flooding and broader climate change impacts, similar to the approach taken with the Bushfire Overlays. This will expedite the planning process and enable Melbourne Water to be efficient as it eliminates the need for them to work with each Council on individual planning schemes. This must be done with consideration of the economic and social impacts of any changes on existing properties and communities.
- Identify mitigation measures and treatments for the catchment which can be priorities through the existing Integrated Water Management Forums that exist across the state.



MCC would welcome the opportunity to discuss the contents of this submission with the Panel.

## Privacy collection notice

As part of the submission process you will be asked to provide your name, phone number and email, plus your address if you were directly impacted by flooding.

We're collecting this in case we need to verify or clarify the information you provide, including if the Review Panel wishes to conduct a one on one interview with you. It won't be used for any other purpose.

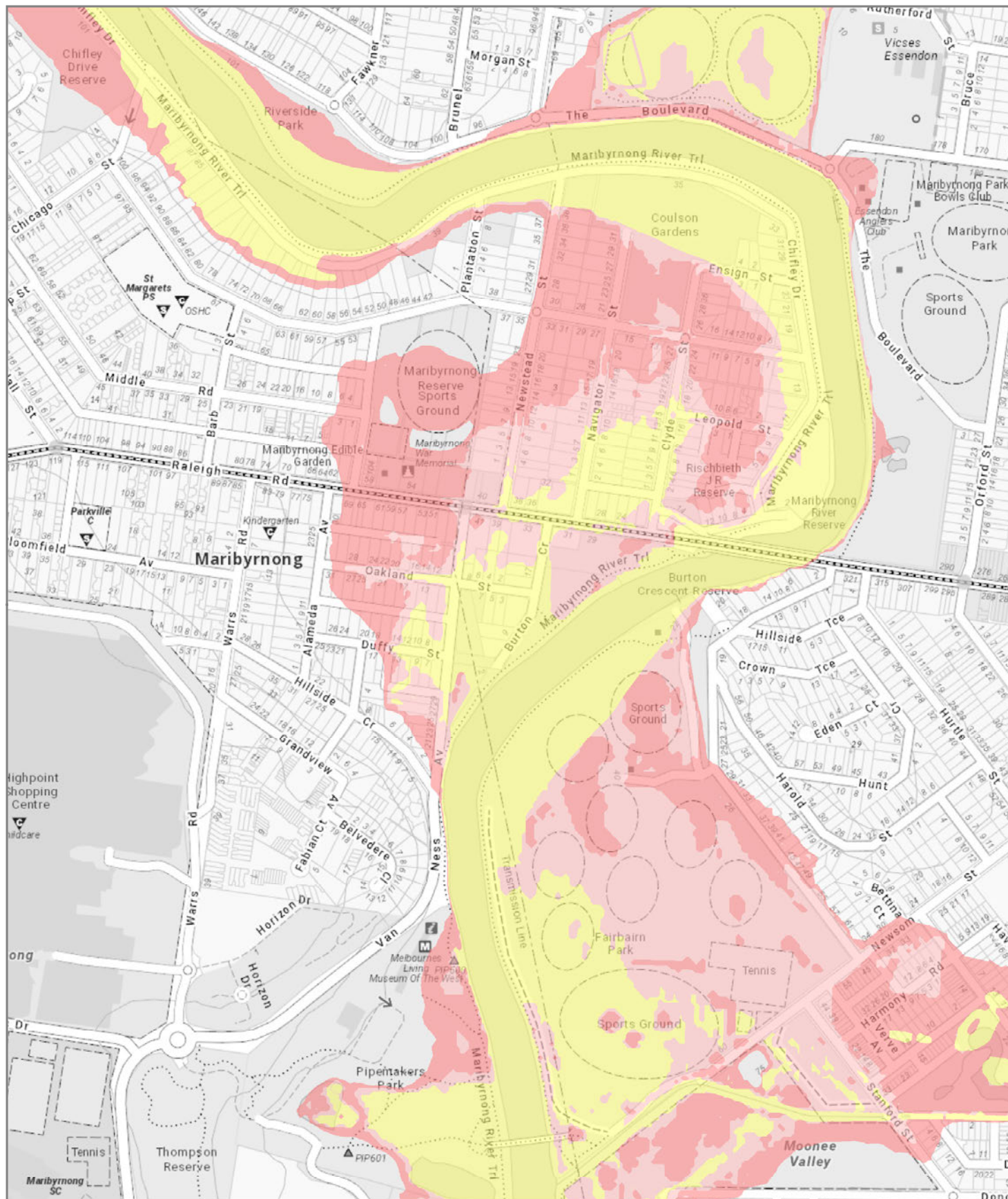
Our collection, use and disclosure of your personal information is regulated by Victorian privacy laws including the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* (Vic).

Please note that all submissions are public documents and will be placed online as part of the Review Panel process. Any identifying information will be redacted, and your name and contact information will not be shared.

By making a submission, you consent to Melbourne Water collecting any personal information which you provide in, and with, your submission.

For more information about how Melbourne Water protects your privacy view our [Privacy Policy](#).

# SES - Severe Weather Oct - Maribyrnong - Flood Extent 15:34hrs 14 Oct 2022 - A3P 1:7,500



Print Date: 14/10/2022  
Print Time: 15:34:41

PROJECTION Lambert Conformal Conic  
HORIZONTAL DATUM GDA 1994  
COORDINATE SYSTEM GDA 1994 VICGRID94



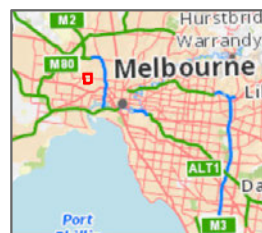
## Legend

- 15/10/22 00:00hrs - 10% AEP (Moderate)
- 15/10/22 19:00hrs 5% AEP (Major)
- 15/10/22 15:00hrs 2% AEP (Major)

Disclaimer:  
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does not guarantee that the publication is without flow of any kind or is wholly appropriate  
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MXD name C:\data\2022\1014\projects\2022\1014\_1420 SES - SEVERE WEATHER OCT MAPPING - Maibyrnong.mxd

PC login icc@dm.map  
PC Number CEQ2D63H73



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