

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 (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 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

Phone

Email

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: is in Fairbairn Park on the banks of the Maribyrnong River. The club was inundated during the flood. I am and am making this submission on behalf of the Club.

How you were impacted

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

1. Property address

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)

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.

[REDACTED] (club) is located on the banks of the Maribyrnong River on the flood plain, at 1.53m datum for a 1:100year flood level in Fairbairn Park, Ascot Vale. The club has no flood wall or levee bank protection.

As we are on the banks of the river, we have been flooded multiple times over the 98 year history of the club. The last flood water that entered the club prior to the October 2022 flood was in 1993. The last major flood, higher than 1m, to enter our club building was in May 1974.

The flood event that occurred on the 14th October 2022 is the most significant flood experienced by us since the May 1974 flood event and was 150mm higher than 1974 level. Club members who have witnessed previous flooding on the Maribyrnong have all commented on the rapid rise of the river over several hours on the morning of the 14th October.

Members of the club were actively monitoring Melbourne Water data displayed on the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) Web Site. The flood warnings issued by BOM indicated a flood level of 2.4 metres above sea level. This equates to an above average flood level and a decision was made to prepare the club for a flood even though the river appeared perfectly normal in Ascot Vale on Thursday 13th.

Members from the club removed [REDACTED] from the club and lifted remaining [REDACTED] refrigerators, ovens, and furniture above the expected flood height.

As we now know, the flood level was under-estimated and consequently, the preparations we made to alleviate the impact were not effective. The flood peaked at 4.22m above sea level and significant damage to appliances, [REDACTED] furniture, internal walls, partitions, and fixtures occurred.

The flood rapidly subsided, but a large amount of sediment and an unknown number of contaminants remained in the club which was eventually cleaned up by club volunteers. Internal walls, toilet cubicles and fixed shelving were replaced. Large appliances are still to be replaced.

Melbourne Water River Height Data

The Melbourne Water River height data from various catchment monitoring sites is vital information the public needs during floods. Club members were monitoring this data and noted the measurement interval from each monitoring site on the river was 1 hour. Whilst this was useful, a shorter interval would have provided a more accurate picture, particularly in situations where water levels are rising rapidly as was the case in the October flood. In addition to availability of timely data, impacted communities need to be informed of the potential for flooding to occur. There seemed an air of complacency in the Ascot Vale area when the club was preparing for the flood. A period of 29 years has elapsed since the last major flood in 1993. The passage of time and the changing demographics in the area may have led to a situation where many residents were not aware of the flood risk to their property. Comments were heard of "didn't know the river flooded" or "the river looks normal today" "it's not raining in Ascot Vale so the river won't flood". This lack of awareness does not seem to have been alleviated by the various organisations responsible for managing flooding on the Maribyrnong.

There was no visible sign of proactive responses from the SES, Emergency services and Councils. Both Moonee Valley and Maribyrnong Councils should have acted more decisively because they both have access to previous flood history; they have flood level maps and they knew which houses would be affected. Even if their warnings may have eventually ended in no flood, the advice should have been hand delivered directly to each resident with a copy of a map with their house marked on it. Details of how to access Melbourne Water River data and BOM should also be included as it cannot be assumed that everyone knows how to access river height data.

The SES knocking on each door when the water had reached the house floor level was too late. The notification of flood warning needs to be a coordinated combined Emergency services effort.

There is a flood map detailing Minor, Moderate and Major levels are erected corner of Newsom and Woods St, Ascot Vale and also Holmes Rd and The Boulevard, Essendon. Additional permanent signage would keep newer residents informed of the potential risk.

The Flemington Racecourse Wall.

The club was opposed to the building of the flood wall as it significantly reduced the flood plain of the river. There did not appear to be significant offsets that compensated for the loss of the flood plain, and in our view, there was the potential for the river to back up and make flooding upstream worse than would otherwise be the case. We made this observation based on the short duration of Maribyrnong River floods which historically see the river rising and subsiding quickly.

The Flemington Flood wall planning permit conditions for mitigation were; lowering of an access road across the downstream side of the railway culverts to provide free flow during a flood; and removal of a heritage listed bluestone bridge abutment on the Maribyrnong river. These mitigations are manifestly inadequate and fail to offset the reduction in flood plain that has occurred.

In the October flood, we see a significant and rapid increase in the river height at Keilor which peaked at 8.63m at 8:00am. As the water moved downstream, the Maribyrnong also saw a rapid increase in river height which peaked at 12:00pm. In our view, the Flemington wall was an impediment to the volume of water moving downstream and this caused more severe flooding than would have been the case pre-wall.

Other developments that impact on Maribyrnong River flooding.

Since the flood of 1993 there have been a lot of housing developments increasing the velocity of water runoff from roads and roofs. In addition to the Flemington Flood Wall, housing developments within the catchment area of the river are significant and given demand for housing, will continue to impact on the volume of water entering the system. All these developments have remained untested by a flood until the October 2022 flood. Developments that have increased the likelihood of flooding include;

Edgewater housing development that included construction of a lake to compensate for the lost flood plain. The land level in the development was increased by building up soil removed to construct the lake.

Rivervue retirement village including the construction of units on a what was previously a designated flood plain at Canning St, Avondale Heights. 51 units were damaged by the Oct 2022 flood.

Metro tunnel flood wall construction in Kensington.

Chase housing development on the ex-ICI site in Ascot Vale. The level of the land was built up prior to house construction, the ICI factory and office area was completely flooded previously in 1974, but again no compensation for the loss of flood plain is apparent.

Sunshine North housing estates, Duke St area. Although this development is not constructed on a flood plain, there are multiple storm water pipes of at least 900mm in diameter from multiple estates that deposit large volumes of storm water directly into the river.

Upper reaches of the Maribyrnong catchment area where there have been a large-scale expansion of housing developments in Gisborne, Sunbury, Riddells Creek, Macedon, Lancefield and Romsey areas. These developments add to the fast water runoff from roofs and roads into the creeks that feed the Maribyrnong River.

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](#).