

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2023 8:46 AM
To: Maribyrnong River Flood Review
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Submission to Maribyrnong River Flood Review
Attachments: Brimbank Officer Council - Submission to the Melbourne Water Review of the Maribyrnong River Flood Event.PDF

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To whom it may concern,

Please find attached submission lodged on behalf of Brimbank City Council.


Contact details are provided for any further matters.

Regards,



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Brimbank Community and Civic Centre [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



 Brimbank City Council respectfully acknowledges and recognises the Wurundjeri and Bunurong peoples as the Traditional Custodians of this land and pays respect to their Elders past, present and future.

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17 March 2023

To whom it may concern
Review Panel - Maribyrnong River Flood Review
C/- maribyrnongriver.floodreview@melbournewater.com.au

Brimbank Council Submission - Maribyrnong River Flood Review

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the review of the Maribyrnong River Flood Event (Flood Event) that occurred on 14 October 2022. Brimbank City Council (BCC) has a strong interest in this Review as the Maribyrnong River traverses the Brimbank municipality, and was impacted by the Flood Event.

The Maribyrnong River Valley provides a unique environment for Melbourne's western and northern suburbs, which includes cultural heritage, recreational and environmental values and a sense of remoteness still available in the upper reaches of the river. Within Brimbank, the corridor accommodates a range of significant open spaces including Brimbank Park, Horseshoe Bend Farm, Sydenham Park and the Organ Pipes National Park, as well as industrial and residential development, and agricultural uses in the Brimbank part of the Sunbury Green Wedge. While it is noted that the impact of the Flood Event was more extensive in the cities of Maribyrnong and Moonee Valley, there were also significant impacts for some private and public properties within the City of Brimbank.

The Flood Review is limited by the Terms of Reference (TOR) established by Melbourne Water, which only apply to the metropolitan area within the Urban Growth Boundary. The TOR excludes the northern part of Brimbank which is north of the Calder Freeway, including the Brimbank part of the Sunbury Green Wedge. It is considered that the TOR are too limited, and should encompass the Brimbank portion of the Sunbury Green Wedge, particularly as this area was impacted by the Flood Event also.

How Brimbank was impacted

Private Property

Within the area defined by the TOR, BCC is aware of 10 private properties in Brimbank that were impacted by the Flood Event. Two properties were included in the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) and eight were not.

Property owners outside the LSIO did not anticipate the potential for flooding and none of the properties received any advanced warning about the potential for flooding in relation to the Flood Event. BCC understand that property owners are seeking possible mitigation measures, such as levees, to protect their properties from any future flooding.

BCC officers are also advised that private properties along the Maribyrnong River and within the Brimbank Green Wedge (outside the area defined by the TOR) also suffered losses including property and equipment damage, as well as equipment being swept away in flood waters.

BCC officers are concerned about the potential insurance implications for property owners adjacent to the Maribyrnong River and other waterways. Flooding events can result in significant increases to insurance premiums, or even cases where property owners are unable to secure insurance, or insurance is limited. Property owners may also be experiencing a level of stress and anxiety about future flood events and the ability to afford or access insurance.

Council Resources & Property

On the morning of 14 October 2022, BCC Emergency Management, along with Emergency Services (SES) and Victoria Police were called to provide assistance to Brimbank residents that were impacted by the rapid rise of water along the Maribyrnong River.

BCC's clean-up assistance to residents went on for a number of weeks after the Flood Event, which included waste removal from flooded properties and cleaning. BCC resources were also allocated to the removal of debris from public property, including the clean-up of public roads and repairs to public infrastructure in the surrounding areas.

The historic Arundel Road Bridge was also destroyed by the Flood Event. While it is acknowledged that the historic bridge is outside the area defined by the TOR, the loss of this asset is important nonetheless. While BCC had insurance for the historic bridge and is planning for its rebuild, it is unclear as to whether Council will be able to secure future insurance, to what extent the premium may increase, and whether Council will be provided full coverage.

Potential contamination

The inundation of potentially contaminated flood waters onto property adjacent to the Maribyrnong River may also present risks to human health. The Maribyrnong River Valley is surrounded by potentially contaminating uses including aviation, industry and landfills, which may have necessitated a health risk assessment in relation to the Flood Event.

Recommendations to the Independent Review Panel

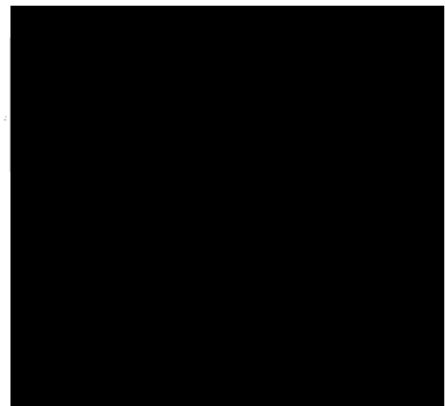
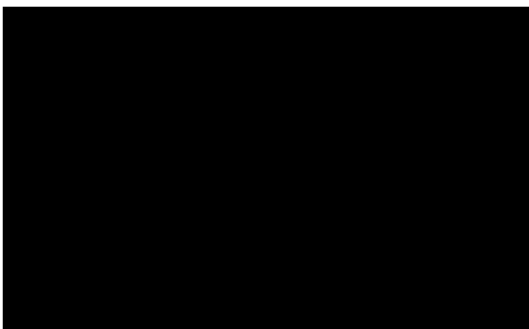
That Melbourne Water should:

- Change the TOR to expand the catchment to include the Brimbank part of the Sunbury Green Wedge.
- Review municipal Storm and Flood Emergency Plans, including BCC's, and provide any advice to Victoria State Emergency Services and councils on changes required as a result of the Flood Event.
 - A specific focus should include a warning system and communication to residents and property owners about the risk of rising flood waters. This would provide some opportunity to relocate equipment and belongings.
- Examine possible mitigation measures that could be implemented in the Keilor area to protect affected properties from future inundation.
- Review flood mapping data within the catchment, with consideration to the type of future flood events anticipated as a result of climate change, and current and future land use and development.

- Once flood mapping has been revised and updated, Melbourne Water should then undertake a GC Amendment (as the Planning Authority) in consultation with Brimbank, Hume, Maribyrnong, Melbourne and Moonee Valley City Councils to ensure a consistent approach to flood mapping is applied along the Maribyrnong River.
- It is also recommended that revised flood mapping followed by a GC Amendment should be undertaken for all major waterways and flood prone areas in Melbourne's west, where mapping is not up to date.
- Consider if and when a health risk assessment should be undertaken to determine and respond to any potential health risks arising from potential contamination of property from inundation of flood waters like the Flood Event.
- Ensure any future work considers, responds to, and updates where appropriate, other regional plans, strategies and planning policies to ensure that work is strategically aligned, integrated and coordinated, including but not limited to the recently completed Waterways of the West Action Plan.
- Ensure that all stakeholders impacted by the Flood Event can continue to access affordable property insurance in the future, that provides full and appropriate cover, or provide access to other forms of compensation or support.
- Continue to provide a range of support to residents that remain impacted by the Flood Event, including temporary accommodation, counselling, insurance and other support, and maintain over the longer term as required.

BCC looks forward to the Flood Review progressing and the implementation of meaningful measures that will help increase awareness, emergency management, and mitigate the impacts of flooding on private and public property while promoting the health and wellbeing of the river and surrounding communities.

Yours sincerely



Brimbank Flood Event Images



Arundel Heritage Bridge destroyed



Arundel Heritage Bridge destroyed



Shipping container hitting Arundel Road Bridge



Flora Street, Keilor, cut off



Roads in North Keilor