

Q1 Name

Short Text

Q2 Email address

Email

Q3 Phone number

Telephone

Q4 What is your interest in the review? (select one)

Multi Choice

Other, please describe: We plant and maintain land along the river and advocate for its protection and enhancement

Q5 Address of the flooded property

Short Text

Q6 Property type

Multi Choice

Q7 Is this your usual place of residence?

Multi Choice

Q8 Did you have to move out as a result of the flood?

Multi Choice

Q9 Are you still living elsewhere?

Multi Choice

Q10 Do you intend to return?

Multi Choice

Q11 What is your business name?

Short Text

Q12 What does your business do?

Short Text

Q13 Did you have to close your business as a result of the flood?

Multi Choice

Q14 Have you been able to reopen your business yet?

Multi Choice

Q15 Do you intend to reopen your business?

Multi Choice

Q16 Do you own the property?

Multi Choice

Q17 Do you intended to sell the property?

Multi Choice

Q18 Your submission

Long Text

For many years the [REDACTED] have emphasised that the main role of flood plains is for managing floods. The water spreads across the plain slowing the speed of the river and providing additional nutrients to the soil. CSIRO ecologist [REDACTED] says: "Floods are important to reconnect creeks and wetlands that come off main river channels, to supply fresh water to top up or fill wetlands, which in turn supports flora and fauna in the vicinity. Floods can often initiate breeding of various fauna such as fish, frogs and birds. More frogs, for example, then provide a food source for reptiles and other larger fauna." A number of people commented on the increase in frog activity after the recent Maribymong floods.

When there is considerable urban development next to waterways the prevalence of hard surfaces means that stormwater will rapidly enter the waterway adding to the impact of the flood. Barriers such as walls and dykes can divert flood water but this creates extra risk for nearby areas that are unprotected. Also when the water rises higher than the barrier there is a risk that it can linger longer.

It has long been recognised that flood risk has not been managed well along the Maribymong. In an ideal world many houses between Chifley Drive and Clyde St would not have been built. The recent floods have also brought into question the planning decisions that allowed the construction of a number of units at Rivervue. No doubt there are now additional questions about planning decisions made further downstream.

Climate change is a complex area of study making it difficult to develop definitive answers to questions about impact. Sometimes the temperature is warmer than normal, other times it's cooler. Sometimes we get more rain and sometimes less. What does seem to be a general pattern is that climate related disasters are becoming more extreme and more frequent. As a result we cannot assume that mitigation measures devised in the past will be adequate for the future. The precautionary principle would suggest that greater efforts should be made to protect property from flood risk and, where this is not possible, structures should be removed from the floodplain. This has obvious implications for plans to develop the Maribymong Defence Site.

[REDACTED] have been involved in a considerable amount of planting along the river and its tributaries. We have noted that a rapid reduction in flood water greatly reduces the damage to our plantings. A minor flood on Steele Creek a few years ago caused more damage to our plants in that area than did the recent Mar byrmong River flood because the flooding only lasted a couple of days whereas the earlier flooding lasted for over a month. We have also noted that cardboard tree guards withstand flooding much better than plastic or corflute ones and do a much better job of protecting the plants. We have also been concerned about the large amount of plastic waste that gets caught in trees and shrubs. Weeds such as boxthorn get covered in plastic to the extent that it's more effective to remove the plant than to remove the plastic.

Fast action by Councils meant that tracks along the Maribymong were opened up very quickly. However, the track between North Road and Brimbank Park continues to be a problem. In addition the use of coarse gravel to fill in holes along the track between Steele Creek and the pipe bridge means that some parts are difficult to navigate by bicycle. Gravel covered by a layer of topping would probably be more appropriate.

Q19 If you have any supporting documents upload them here.

File Upload