



# ELWOOD MAIN DRAIN DUPLICATION PROJECT

## About the project

Storms and floods are an inevitable and natural part of the weather cycle, but we know that the risk of flooding is a constant concern for people. That's why we're taking action to reduce flooding impacts in the Elster Creek area downstream of Elsternwick Park by duplicating part of the Elwood Main Drain.

The Elwood Main Drain Duplication project is a key initiative under the 2019-2024 Elster Creek Catchment Flood Management Plan. It will provide an improved flood mitigation system for our community in Elwood by increasing the capacity of the stormwater drainage network. Planning and design for the project is now underway.

Starting in 2025, we'll be building a new drain next to the existing Elwood Main Drain from Elsternwick Park to Port Phillip Bay.

## Why is this project important?

The Elster Creek catchment has a long history of widespread flooding, which has repeatedly affected Elwood and surrounding suburbs because of its low-lying position at the bottom of the catchment.

Although stormwater flows from the upper catchment have been diverted elsewhere, Elster Creek – which runs through Elwood – still floods from time to time. Storm surges from Port Phillip Bay also causes flooding from the Elwood Canal.

The intensity of continuing urban development in this catchment, as well as impacts from climate change – with more severe and unpredictable storms and floods – will only add to these challenges. While flooding cannot be eliminated entirely, the Elwood Main Drain Duplication project will lessen its impacts – now and into the future.



Elwood houses flooding (Images Penny Stephens)





The Elwood Main Drain was built in the 1950s to carry stormwater to Port Phillip Bay

## What are we doing and where?

During the concept development, we investigated the possibility of many different options for the location of the new drain, but the highly-developed nature of the area means that the available options are severely constrained.

The most technically feasible and cost-effective option with the least overall impacts to the community is to construct a new drain alongside the existing Elwood Main Drain.

We'll be using pre-cast culverts to build the new drain. These need to be installed using an open trench method because of the shallow location of the existing drain beneath the ground's surface.

As part of the project we'll also be building:

- A new drain inlet next to the existing one in the south-western corner of Elsternwick Park
- A new outlet on Elwood Beach (which means doubling the width of Elwood Pier)
- A diversion structure in Elster Creek to direct floodwaters through the Elsternwick Park retarding basin
- Maintenance pits above or next to the drain.





## Community impacts

We're working with the City of Port Phillip and Bayside City Council in the planning, design and approvals for the project to ensure it's delivered safely and efficiently, and to minimise large disturbances to our Elwood community as much as we practically can.

However, like any major project, there will be some disruptions during construction. These disruptions will vary in their timing, duration and degrees of impact. We've been speaking with people who will be the most affected, and we'll continue to plan for and manage local impacts by working closely with councils, residents, businesses, Elwood Park sports clubs, Elwood Croquet Club and others.

## Community pop-up events

In early 2024, we'll be holding a number of community pop-up events in the Elwood area where you can meet the team and learn more about the project.

We want to ensure your interests are incorporated into the planning, design and delivery of this project, and we welcome your feedback and questions about what's important to you.

Subscribe to our Your Say page to be the first to know when we announce the dates and locations of these events.

### PROJECT TIMELINE



<b>COMPLETE</b>	<b>2022 – LATE 2023</b>	<b>LATE 2023 – LATE 2024</b>	<b>MID – LATE 2024</b>	<b>LATE 2024 – EARLY 2025</b>	<b>2025 – LATE 2026</b>	<b>2026 – 2027</b>
Concept development	Planning and information gathering to inform detailed design	Detailed design, planning and approvals	Construction tender period	Construction tender award	Construction	Restoration of areas affected by our works

This is a complex construction project due to the constraints of its location across both urban and marine environments, and these timeframes may change as more information becomes available.

We'll keep you updated on the timing of the project as we progress through the detailed design stage.

We expect that construction for the project will take approximately 12-18 months to complete. Where possible, our works for the outlet structure and Elwood Pier will be planned to avoid impacts to beach users during peak season.

## A holistic approach to reducing flood risk

For several years now, Melbourne Water has been working in partnership with the cities of Bayside, Glen Eira, Kingston and Port Phillip to take a holistic approach in reducing flood risk in the Elster Creek catchment.

This collaboration recognises that flooding can't be eliminated entirely, but through comprehensive planning there are a range of interventions that can be undertaken to reduce flood risk, including building community understanding and preparedness.

The Elster Creek Catchment Flood Management Plan (2019-2024) outlines a five-year program of initiatives that builds on previous investment to reduce flooding across the catchment. The investigation of flood mitigation options in and around Elsternwick Park was one of the key initiatives under the plan. The Elwood Main Drain Duplication project was developed as an outcome of this investigation.



### OUR ELWOOD COMMUNITY



## Project benefits

By delivering this project, our community in Elwood will benefit from:

- Less flooding downstream of Elsternwick Park through an improved drainage system with more capacity in the network
- Reduced economic damages by an estimated \$2.5 million per year
- Improved community safety through reduced flood risk
- Reduced impacts to properties that are subject to flooding.

We're working closely with City of Port Phillip and Bayside City Council to ensure our project integrates with new and existing masterplans for Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve and the Elwood Foreshore Precinct, as well as other council drainage projects.

Together with councils, we'll look at ways to ensure the local environment, heritage and community interests are protected and enhanced during the delivery of the Elwood Main Drain Duplication project, and offer long-term benefits for our community.

### MORE INFORMATION



If you have any questions, please contact the project team or visit the web page for more information:

-  1800 841 444
-  [elwoodrain@melbournewater.com.au](mailto:elwoodrain@melbournewater.com.au)
-  [yoursay.melbournewater.com.au/elwood-main-drain](https://yoursay.melbournewater.com.au/elwood-main-drain)

Scan the QR code for direct access to the project web page



To access the TTY and Interpreter Services: TTY 133 677  
Interpreter: 131 450

