



Yarra Ranges Council

Stormwater Community Reference Panel

Meeting 3 – Minutes

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| Date and time: | Monday 1 September 5:30pm – 7:15pm |
| Location: | Conference Room – Council Offices Lilydale |
| Purpose of meeting 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To have Melbourne Water present to the group and provide the CRG with the opportunity to ask questions and seek clarification on flood mapping. |
| Attendees | |
| Councillors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cr Tim Hennan – Billanook Ward ▪ Cr Jeff Marriot – Streeton Ward ▪ Cr Mitch Mazzarella – Melba Ward ▪ Cr Peter Mcilwain – Lyster Ward |
| Panel Members | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Anne Wilkes – Chirnside Park ▪ Fiore Di Pietro – Wandin/ Seville ▪ Joe Miles – Mt Dandenong ▪ Karen Duke – Upper Yarra, OShannassy Ward, Warburton ▪ Karen – Melba Ward, CRP member ▪ Melanie – Yarra Junction |
| Apologies: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Michael Stormer – |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ James Eade - |
| Council Staff | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kim O'Connor – Manager Infrastructure Services ▪ Elissa Merriweather – Executive Officer Strategic Projects (Stormwater Management) ▪ Hayley Lourey – Project Support Officer ▪ Keiran Hogan – Executive Officer Stormwater, Traffic and Transport ▪ Marcus Overman – Emergency Management |
| Guests | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Andrew Mellor – Melbourne Water ▪ Narelle Fellows – Melbourne Water ▪ Luke Cunningham – Rain |
| ChatterBox Projects | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sam Walsh-Lead facilitator ▪ Angela Walter-Co-facilitator |

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

2. Introduction and housekeeping

- Introduction of new people attending the meeting: (Council staff – Keiran, Marcus and guests from Melbourne Water)
- Purpose of the meeting and agenda

3. Presentation 1: Melbourne Water

- Flood mapping project

4. Questions

- Questions from the panel to Melbourne Water

5. Next steps

- Next meeting – Monday 24 November 2025

Questions from the CRP to Melbourne Water

Q. Why is Melbourne Water undertaking the flood mapping project?

A: The mapping will give Melbourne Water and Council more up to date and accurate flooding data across the Shire which will help in several ways: It will:

- Enable a better understanding of risk
- Inform where to direct investment and capital funds
- Support VIC SES planning/ response
- Result in smarter planning and where to allow urban growth so homes are at less risk
- Empower the community to be more informed to act and be more resilient

Q. Will this flood mapping project save money in the long-term?

A. In the short term a lot of money is being spent on doing flood modelling across 900 catchments and continuing that work on a cyclical basis. Money is also being allocated to increased community engagement and communications. In the long term there is likely to be savings because Melbourne will be more flood resistant in the future. Council will also be able to use flood modelling to better inform local planning decisions and capital projects.

Q. Who is responsible for approving developments on flood plains?

Melbourne Water puts controls over flood prone areas and provides input into planning decisions in these areas. Melbourne Water can only base its advice/ decision on current flood information (that may be outdated or not exist). The flood modelling project will help with this.

Q. Can we get insurance if Melbourne Water puts us in a flood zone?

Government is currently working with insurance agencies to address this issue. State Government is about to launch a campaign and online information about how to work with your insurance agency around flooding, including speaking to the right people and getting the right coverage.

Q. Will there be more monitoring equipment in better locations to capture more flooding information (not just downstream)?

A. Monitoring systems will come after modelling to ensure strategic placement. Flood modelling will also help with conversations around land management practices in relation to flooding caused by large properties and poor farming practices.

Action: Question taken on notice for Melbourne Water: Status of monitoring systems in specific areas (Wallen Creek).

Idea from previous session – is there an opportunity to tap into private weather stations, or citizen science to increase monitoring.

Q. Can residents, especially in areas where there is not good internet (like in Upper Yarra), be provided with a letter or hard copy of communications (mail out) about Council and Melbourne Water consultations and projects?

A. In the next round of consultation (validation phase) Melbourne Water will send a letter to every flood-affected property and undertake door knocking.

Action: Council and Melbourne Water look at opportunities to include hard-copy information/ survey to all residents.

Action: Melbourne Water to come back to the CRP and present and take feedback at validation stage of engagement.

Action: Council to provide Melbourne Water presentation to CRP members.

Q. Can we get capital money from Melbourne Water for urgent high-risk projects before the flood modelling is done? Is there a list of projects/ program which shows what capital projects will be done?

Through the Price Submission process (every 5 years), Melbourne Water has money to invest in drainage and flood mitigation projects.

Yarra Ranges needs to compete for that money with all other areas across Melbourne. Council can provide more information to Melbourne Water which may impact the risk assessment of this area. Council also receives money from Melbourne Water and through its own capital budget to undertake localised flooding / drainage projects while the flood modelling is being done.

Q. How often does Melbourne Water maintain / clear debris from creeks to help water flow where it needs to go?

Melbourne Water has a regular maintenance program and does routine inspections. They also follow up if a request has come in from community.

Action: Melbourne Water to present capital works program and maintenance/ operations program/ schedule at future meeting.

Q. What is a flood plain?

A. Usually Melbourne Water manages anything greater than 60ha and most designated waterways / open channels.

Extra questions for Melbourne Water/ Council

Post responses on Teams site

- How are we preparing for climate changes eg: monsoon rains?
- Still talk of 50 year and 100 year events?
- Why did Melbourne Water deny Warburton community to put in another bridge for safety (another bridge is needed due to flood damage / highway slip)?
- Development is planned in a river flood zone in Warburton. It will be approved when it shouldn't. Who is responsible?

Comments

- Since Warburton Mountain Bike Park opened, water flow damage and run off over twice the amount down Mt Little Joe.
- Yarra Ranges planners need more training to go through applications not just YRC holding area for development.
- Melbourne Water/ Council to engage face to face and send mail outs/ not just online data collection.

Ideas for future sessions

(From CRP members and discussions at meetings)

- Mid meeting online session on a specific topic – rather than waiting 3 months for the next meeting.
- CRP to help develop criteria for Council to use when implementing a drainage Special Charge Scheme.
- Panel members to present on different topics.
- Mapping exercise of hot spot areas (from lived experience/ local expertise)
- Session with EPA and Melbourne Water re runoff and water quality entering waterways.
- Road Construction Team to present at Future meeting.
- Present / provide Development Guidelines at future meeting.
- Planners to present and provide Development Guidelines to show what is required of developers re detention of water and impervious surfaces
- Planners to present on how decisions are made for applications to build in a flood zone.
- Melbourne Water and Council to present on capital project of works and maintenance/ operations program for creeks. Summary of where Melbourne Water and Council are putting money into drainage/ flooding projects over the next 6 months.
- Melbourne Water to come back to seek input into flood modelling (validation stage) and implications for insurance.
- Work through a list of flooding scenarios and possible mitigation solutions and possible solutions.
- Feedback into the Integrated Waterways Strategy.

Summary of actions (ongoing):

Action: Post answers from Melbourne Waters additional questions on CRP Teams site.

Action: Question taken on notice: Status of monitoring systems in specific areas (Wallen Creek). Melbourne Water to respond.

Action: Council and Melbourne Water look at opportunities to include hard-copy information/ survey to all residents.

Action: Melbourne Water to come back to the CRP and present and take feedback at validate stage of engagement (has been included in Ideas for future sessions).

Action: Melbourne Water to come back to the CRP to present capital project of works and maintenance/ operations program (has been included in Ideas for future sessions).

Action: Set up online private portal / Teams for CRP and staff to communicate, ask questions, share information etc. (action carried over).

Action: Planners to present and provide Development Guidelines to show what is required of developers re detention of water and impervious surfaces

Action: Question taken on notice re confirmation of 3-year time frame of data on Catchment Prioritisation Map.

Action: Roads Construction Team to present at a future CRP meeting (has been included in future meeting ideas)

Action: Further discussion about the SCS and ways to be proactive/ communicate with community (has been included in future meeting ideas).

Next meeting

Next meeting will be:

Date: Monday 24 November 2025

Start time: 5.30pm – 7.30pm