



# Yarra Ranges Council

## Stormwater Community Reference Panel

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### Meeting 4 – Minutes

<b>Date and time:</b>	Monday 23 November 5:30pm – 7:15pm
<b>Location:</b>	Conference Room – Council Offices Lilydale
<b>Purpose of meeting 4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To present and get input on Integrated Water Management to inform the development of an updated plan.</li> <li>▪ To workshop different flooding related scenarios to provide advice and guidance to Council.</li> </ul>
<b>Attendees</b>	
<b>Councillors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cr Tim Hennan – Billanook Ward</li> <li>▪ Cr Jeff Marriot – Streeton Ward</li> </ul>
<b>Councillor apologise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cr Mitch Mazarella – Melba Ward</li> <li>▪ Cr Peter Mcilwain – Lyster Ward</li> </ul>
<b>Panel Members</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Anne Wilkes – Chirnside Park</li> <li>▪ Fiore Di Pietro – Wandin/ Seville</li> <li>▪ Joe Miles – Mt Dandenong</li> <li>▪ Karen Duke – Upper Yarra, OShannassy Ward, Warburton</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Melanie – Yarra Junction</li> <li>▪ Jamie Stretton – Lyster Ward</li> <li>▪ Shane Creek - Coldstream</li> </ul>
<b>Council Staff</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Kim O’Connor – Manager Infrastructure Services</li> <li>▪ Elissa Merriweather – Executive Officer Strategic Projects (Stormwater Management)</li> <li>▪ Hayley Lourey – Project Support Officer</li> <li>▪ Beth Wallis – Water Management Officer</li> <li>▪ Joerg Werdin – Coordinator Water and Sustainable Living</li> </ul>
<b>ChatterBox Projects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sam Walsh-Lead facilitator</li> <li>▪ Angela Walter-Co-facilitator</li> </ul>

## AGENDA

### 1. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

### 2. Introduction and house keeping

- Welcome, acknowledgment of Councillors
- Purpose of the meeting and agenda
- Quick draw activity

### 3. Presentation

- Integrated Water Management and development of an updated draft plan
- Feedback and questions from the Panel

#### 4. **Scenario based workshop**

- Workshopping three different flooding related scenarios to seek advice and input from the panel.

#### 5. **Next steps**

- 2026 meeting dates to be sent to Panel members
- Panel to start using Teams chat for questions and input

## **Integrated Waterways Management Plan Feedback and Questions**

### **Q. Confirm the numbers around water saved from the Stringy Bark Creek study as it seems high?**

A: The figures of water saved in the study also includes water harvesting systems (which are much larger systems compared to individual tanks).

### **Q. How does the IWMP relate to planning and planning applications?**

A: There are some provisions related to water management and some types of development in the Planning Scheme. Council is doing more work to better understand how the latest planning changes from State Government may conflict with objectives in the IWMP. Also, in the Stormwater Management Plan there is also a key objective or action around development guidelines. Once these guidelines are developed along with the flood mapping, Council will have in place stronger controls for planners to use when making decisions around proposed developments. This can include requirements for developers to retain a certain volume of water on a property through tanks or larger pipes for example.

### **Q. Can you provide more details on the Infiltration Swale?**

A. Swales can come in all shapes and sizes and types. They can be quite simple (like a table drain) or more sophisticated with natural filtration layers. They can include pipes as well. An example of one is at Chrinside Park across the road from the shops and takes water off the road.

### **Q. Who maintains the swales/ open channels. Yarra Junction has many but not even and water just sits in it.**

A. Council

### **Q. How has the IWMP come to be?**

Councils in Victoria started developing IWM plans around 2017 because:

- State policy (Water for Victoria) gave a clear mandate.
- A framework was put in place by the State Government to support collaboration with councils, state departments and agencies.
- Councils needed to respond to population growth, urbanisation, and climate challenges.

#### **The Integrated Waterways Management Plan (IWMP) needs to consider:**

- People who might have slow-release water tanks but there is no where to release the water to.
- Changes to the planning scheme/ State Government planning requirements for Yarra Ranges. The IWMP needs to strongly inform planning decisions so that new development does not add to the flooding risk.
- Requirements for developers to put common underground tanking into larger developments.

#### **Other points questions raised**

- There is strong concern around planning permits being approved and causing flooding issues even when there are controls in place like overlays and guidelines. There is also strong concern around houses being built that are not complying with permits and there are no checks in place.
- The draft IWMP to come back to the group early for feedback (online session in April 2026).
- Q. Are rainwater or slow-release tanks compulsory for new planning and developments?
- Why were there no mitigating measures for stormwater for Mt Little Joe and WMBD (2 – 3 x more water)

### **Scenario responses**

#### **Scenario 1: Water Flowing Down Driveway into Garage**

##### **Background**

A resident experiences water flowing down their steep driveway and into their garage during heavy rainfall. The garage floor level is slightly below the street, and there is no trench drain or grate installed at the garage entrance. While the surrounding street has standard stormwater infrastructure, the topography and private driveway design result in stormwater flowing toward the property. The resident has experienced minor damage to stored items and is concerned about future flooding risks. Council has limited budget for individual property drainage works but is responsible for broader stormwater planning and community-wide resilience.

### The Remit

Provide advice to Council on how it should respond to property-level flooding cases like this in a way that is fair, consistent, sustainable, and aligned with Council responsibilities.

### Scenario 3: Water Flowing Through Easement During Heavy Rain

#### Background

A drainage easement runs along the back of a resident's property. During heavy rainfall, increased upstream runoff causes water to rush through the easement, leading to erosion and occasional overflow into the backyard. The resident is concerned about safety and property damage. The easement is legally required to carry stormwater from multiple properties, but the system may be experiencing pressure from development and reduced permeable surfaces.

#### The Remit

Provide advice to Council on how it should manage drainage easement concerns on private land in a fair and sustainable way.

### Scenario 6: Property at Lowest Point of Road Impacted During Short Heavy Downpours

#### Background

A homeowner located at the natural low point of a residential street experiences flooding during short, intense rainfall events. Although the street contains multiple pits and pipes, the system cannot always cope with sudden peak volumes. Floodwater enters the garage and yard before receding quickly. The homeowner has requested that Council review drainage capacity.

#### The Remit

Provide advice to Council on how to respond to drainage limitations in natural low points while supporting affected residents.

### Advice to Council

	Scenario 1	Scenario 3	Scenario 6
<b>Council's role:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Street drainage is not blocked and is effective (most of the time)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Open conversation with resident</li><li>Education residents about easements</li><li>Adhere to the overlays and planning regulations</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Inspect infrastructure</li><li>Understand how it should work</li><li>Understand what has been damaged (how has the property been impacted)</li></ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate for funding and budget</li> </ul>	
<b>Resident / landowner role:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check property drainage is clear, clean</li> <li>• Consider drain in the front of garage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open conversation with Council</li> <li>• Read the Section 32</li> <li>• Know about easements before buying</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History of the problem – has it got worse?</li> <li>• Times when the issue occurs</li> <li>• What has changed?</li> <li>• Building damage vs carport</li> </ul>
<b>Principles to guide decisions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rainfall stats</li> <li>• Frequency of event (is this the first time/ what is different?)</li> <li>• Where is the water coming from – road/ property?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overlays – what can or can't be done</li> <li>• How long a resident has lived at the property informs what can get done</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigating bits and pieces and bigger picture of what might be the problem (eg: is the issue upstream?)</li> </ul>
<b>Risks or trade-offs to consider:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disgruntled rate payer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Costs, age of easements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of crossover drains</li> <li>• Return on investment with solutions</li> <li>• Buy time to slow and retain flows</li> </ul>
<b>Council comms</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What infrastructure there is</li> <li>• Drainage easement – how effective it is</li> <li>• How have conditions changed?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educating about easements and responsibilities.</li> <li>• Listen to residents</li> <li>• Setting expectations with Council and steps to resolve</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topography of land</li> <li>• Honest and upfront</li> <li>• Explain the situation</li> <li>• Do the investigation and report back</li> <li>• Work with resident on solution</li> <li>• Explain how it works and what Council can fix</li> <li>• Don't say 1 in 100-year flood when it has happened 6-7 times</li> </ul>

## Ideas for future sessions

- Panel members to submit scenarios
- Presentation from planning department
- Draft IWMP to come back to group in April (early) for feedback)

## Ideas for future sessions (ongoing list)

- 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:

### Questions on notice:

- What is the cost effectiveness of slow-release water tanks?

- Would be good to get an idea of how much a swale/ open channel holds to get a sense of scale (like the Chirside Swale).
- Map out dates of 2026 meetings and book in panel members.

### **Summary of actions (ongoing)**

**ACTION:** Post answers to Melbourne Water extra 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. Eg: in rates notices or water notices.

**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).

### **Attachments to the minutes:**

- IWMP PowerPoint presentation

### **Next meeting**

**Date: Monday 23 February 2026**

**Start time: 5.30pm – 7.30pm**