

City of
KINGSTON

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26 February 2007

Flood Management and Drainage Strategy
Melbourne Water Corporation
PO Box 4342
MELBOURNE 3001

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: PORT PHILLIP AND WESTERNPORT FLOOD MANAGEMENT AND DRAINAGE STRATEGY
RESPONSE TO DISCUSSION PAPER**

The City Kingston has over 10,000 properties located within our *special building and land subject to inundation* overlays. Flooding is recognised as a significant issue for our community and creates enormous challenges for Council staff.

The discussion paper raises some probing questions concerning tolerable risks, responsibilities and funding arrangements. Our response to these 'big picture' questions will be addressed via a joint submission from a number of Councils who are working together on these important issues.

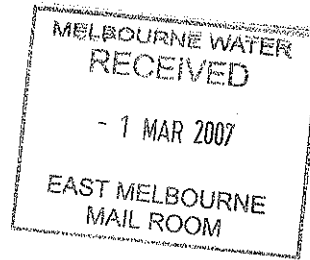
To supplement our joint submission, I'd also like Melbourne Water to take into consideration the following comments that are more focused on our local issues and challenges.

Issue 1: An agreed approach to managing existing regional flood problems

This section of the report discusses tolerable risks and poses the question whether resources should only focus on intolerable flood risks. The report also lists factors which may determine whether floods are tolerable or intolerable.

Whilst the majority of flooding within Kingston may technically be deemed 'tolerable' (based on the criteria listed in the report) our community is unlikely to share the same opinion (due to the frequency of flooding experienced).

Many of Kingston's low lying bayside suburbs experience localised shallow flooding during storm events that exceed 3 year ARI intensity (let alone 100 year ARI). Council's capacity to upgrade our local drainage system is severely restricted by the shallow depth and lack of capacity in Melbourne Water's main drainage system (particularly the 'Secondary Drain' between Aspendale and Carrum).



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Our dilemma is that the level of service provided by Council's and Melbourne Water's drainage system is unsatisfactory. Drainage improvements are considered by Melbourne Water as a low priority (due to the relatively low number of dwelling flooded above floor level) and non structural strategies would not address public expectation for flood protection

Council believes a drainage upgrading program for Melbourne Water drains in its municipal district is a reasonable expectation. This would assist Council plans for its drainage upgrading and enhance our capacity to respond to the community.

Issue 2: Completing the Knowledge base

This section of the report includes a discussion on the importance of flood mapping.

Based on our experience of introducing a special building overlay (covering both Melbourne Water and parts of Council's catchment areas), we strongly support flood mapping (within Council managed local catchments) as an important part of an overall strategy.

Page 15 of the report indicates that 82,000 properties have been identified by Melbourne Water as subject to flooding and suggests that the risk is likely to be greater as it doesn't include properties within Council's smaller catchments. Much more work needs to be done by Melbourne Water to fully appreciate the extent of flooding within catchments serviced by council drains. Page 21 indicates that annual average damage caused by local overland flow paths accounts for \$125 M out of a total of \$245 M !

A co-ordinated approach is required to:

- (i) Estimate the total number of properties subject to flooding (and % above floor level) for both 20 & 100 year ARI events in a systematic and consistent manner.
- (ii) Estimate overall implementation costs and provide state government matching funds as an incentive for Councils to undertake flood mapping.
- (iii) Standardise flood mapping methodology and planning scheme implementation processes to ensure consistency across Melbourne and reduce costs.

Issue 3: Potential Long term future pressures on existing drainage system

This section of the report includes a discussion on the impact of increased housing density and climate change. The report poses the question 'What should we do in areas where it is not practical to undertake works to accommodate additional runoff?'

This is the core question for municipalities (like the City of Kingston) with older built up areas and drainage systems struggling to cope with current conditions (let alone future challenges).

A co-ordinated approach is required to investigate strategies at both individual property level, local catchment and Melbourne Water catchment level including a consistent/ agreed approach to:

- (i) Onsite detention systems, local and precinct retarding basins.
- (ii) Management of impervious surfaces
- (iii) Water Sensitive Urban Design

(iv) Flood management strategies vs Melbourne 2030 objectives

Council's Infrastructure department commenced an ongoing 'Flood Mitigation Strategy' in 1997 and employees a number of engineers to continually review drainage capacities, model drainage systems, map extents of flooding and recommend improvement strategies. We would be happy to meet with Melbourne Water at any time to discuss the findings of our work in more detail.

Should you wish to discuss any of our comments in more detail, please contact Alan West, Team Leader, Engineering Design on ☎ 9581 4340 or e-mail at alan.west@kingston.vic.gov.au

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the discussion paper and Council is supportive of efforts to develop a more unified approach to flood management.

Yours sincerely



Tony Rijs
GENERAL MANAGER
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY