

Managing Liverpool Road Retarding Basin

December 2008

The Liverpool Rd Retarding Basin is owned and managed by Melbourne Water. It's an important part of the way we protect people and property in the Dandenong Creek catchment from flooding. But it's more than that and we recognise that the community values its open space and wildlife.

This retarding basin is very special. Remnant vegetation supports rare, threatened and vulnerable animals, including a lizard called the Swamp Skink, the Southern Toadlet, and birds like the Great Egret, Powerful Owl and a type of duck known as Hardhead. Because of this, it's a Site of Biodiversity Significance, and we need the community's help to protect it.

Melbourne Water welcomes people using the retarding basin in ways that help us look after it, including walking dogs on-lead. We're continuing to talk with the local councils and the community about appropriate uses.

How we're managing the retarding basin

In 2007, we prepared a future directions plan for the retarding basin in consultation with the community and people and organisations who use it. The plan sets out what we need to do over the next 10 to 15 years to:

- manage the retarding basin for flood protection
- manage its lakes and other waterways
- protect and enhance its significant native flora and fauna.

Over the next few years, we're concentrating on making the retarding basin safer, controlling weeds and encouraging native plants to grow. We've been removing structures like benches and the jetty that don't meet current Australian building standards. We'll be upgrading or moving a few structures like bridges and paths to make them safe or so they're in appropriate locations. We're also planning to install a fence on one side of the lake, near the base of the lake wall, to protect the wall so plants can grow there, helping birds and reducing erosion.

Details are in the future directions plan.

For more information, a copy of the plan or to tell us how you enjoy the Liverpool Rd Retarding Basin, call us on 9235 2121.