

**March 2009**

**Dear Community**

## **Liverpool Road Retarding Basin**

There has been a lot of community and media interest in the Liverpool Road Retarding Basin site in recent weeks. In particular, there has been concern over access to the site.

We would like to assure you that the community are welcome to visit Liverpool Rd Retarding Basin to enjoy the natural surrounds. We understand that people have enjoyed going there for many years and we have no intention of closing it to the public.

### **Our management plan**

In 2006 and 2007, Melbourne Water led a process to develop a long term management plan for the site. We received many comments from the local community about why they enjoy the Liverpool Rd Retarding Basin and what they enjoy doing when they're there. The most common responses showed that many people value the natural environment and that they enjoy walking, jogging and walking their dogs. Some people were aware that this natural environment is rare and needs to be protected; some expressed concerns about uncontrolled dogs and the need to protect others and the habitat. Only a few people knew that the site is an important place for flood protection for the Dandenong Creek.

We incorporated people's comments and concerns in a management plan for the retarding basin. Known as the Liverpool Rd Retarding Basin Future Directions Plan, it was completed in mid 2007. We realise that many people who participated in developing it were not formally told that it was finished. So we understand that recent works, including fencing special vegetation areas and removing old, unsafe timber furniture and structures, may have surprised people.

The Liverpool Rd Retarding Basin Future Directions Plan is a guide for how we manage the site over 10 to 15 years. Not everything in the plan has been finalised and the actions in the plan won't be done all at once, some actions too may change over time depending on agreements and funding. You will notice some small changes when you visit the retarding basin as we continue to protect habitat and make sure the retarding basin continues to do its job of protecting people and property on Dandenong Creek from flooding.

## Recreation at the site

Recreational management at Liverpool Rd Retarding Basin has not yet been finalised. The plan talks about discussing the possibility of part of the site being managed for public recreation as well as improved recreation management with such organisations as Knox City Council who manage recreation reserves.

## What we are doing at the moment

Discussions are currently underway with Knox City Council about the possibility of part of the site being managed for public recreation. Rightly, it will be Council's decision whether or not they enter into a licence agreement with Melbourne Water to manage public recreation at Liverpool Rd Retarding Basin.

We are planning a three-year rehabilitation project along the Dandenong Creek and the northern edge of the lake to improve habitat values and reduce bank erosion. This project also plans to remove large pine trees on the Dandenong Creek and plant more native trees. It is due to commence in Spring 2009.

We are also talking with the newly formed Friends of Liverpool Rd Retarding Basin about how they can help, for example, with improving vegetation.

## Where you can see the Liverpool Rd Retarding Basin Future Directions Plan

The Liverpool Rd Retarding Basin Future Directions Plan is available:

- on our website, [melbournewater.com.au](http://melbournewater.com.au) (select **Rivers and Creeks**, then select **Our programs and projects**, then **River Health**)
- at Knox City Council

I have also enclosed information to help you understand the main functions of the retarding basin and its significant vegetation and habitat. I would like to apologise that this information was not sent to you sooner.

I trust the information enclosed with this letter and the Liverpool Rd Retarding Basin Future Directions Plan will help you and others who enjoy the retarding basin to understand that we are managing this special place for your continued enjoyment and future generations.

If you would like to continue to receive information about Liverpool Rd Retarding Basin, please call Jo Greenwood from the River Health team at Melbourne Water on 9235 7264

Yours sincerely

Matt Francey  
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