

# Birdwatching access conditions and hazards

## 1. Definitions

“**Access Key**” means a key issued to you by Melbourne Water upon successful application for birdwatching access at the Western Treatment Plant.

“**Birdwatching Access**” means birdwatching access issued by Melbourne Water in accordance with these conditions, which may be either:

- Short Term access; or
- Long Term access.

“**Birdwatching Access Route**” means the access route as marked on the Map that is accessible via birdwatching access gates 1 to 6 & 8 as marked on the Map.

“**Birdwatching Access Holder**” means a person who has permission to access the Western Treatment Plant for birdwatching access.

“**Commercial Tours**” means customers who have paid you to visit the birdwatching site.

“**Guest**” means any guests you bring onto the birdwatching site, including minors under the age of 18. This excludes customers who have paid you to visit the birdwatching site.

“**Long Term**” means (as applicable):

Long Term birdwatching access valid for 2 years which allows access to the birdwatching access route (see section 3 below).

“**Map**” means the Birdwatching Access Map provided by Melbourne Water outlining the birdwatching route at the site.

“**Personnel**” includes Melbourne Water’s officers, agents, employees and contractors.

**"Privacy"** means the responsible collection and handling of your personal information (information which can reasonably identify you and other individuals).

**"Site"** means the Western Treatment Plant, as outlined on the Map.

**"Short Term"** means (as applicable):

Short term birdwatching access issued to interstate and international visitors (only) and valid for one day which allows access to the birdwatching Access Route (see section 4 below).

**"You"** means a **Birdwatching Access** Holder.

## 2. Overview regarding access and permits

To enter the site, you will need to have completed the site birdwatching access application and induction and hold a birdwatching Access Key.

To apply for birdwatching access, you must be over the age of 18.

The main access to the birdwatching area is via Point Wilson Road and Beach Road (refer to the Map).

Birdwatching can take place between dawn and dusk. At no time should birdwatching occur at night.

You must not enter the site for the purpose of birdwatching unless you are a Permit Holder or are a Guest of a Permit Holder.

Commercial Tours are prohibited unless you have Melbourne Water's written consent.

You and your Guests are required to wear appropriate protective clothing when on site. The minimum Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements are long sleeves, long pants and closed shoes.

You and your Guest(s) must only use the birdwatching Access Route as marked on the Map. Other routes must not be used as the roads on those routes may not be maintained and could be dangerous. You and your Guest(s) must not enter into paddocks or other areas which are fenced or otherwise closed off.

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You and your Guest(s) must not access areas which are not owned or controlled by Melbourne Water (e.g. the Parks Victoria and Department of Defence areas marked on the Map).

You must lock all gates immediately after entry and exit.

The site is vast and you will require a car to access the Permit areas (motorbikes and bicycles are not permitted).

Toilet facilities are located at Gate 5, Paradise Road.

Birdwatching access allows for one car (driver plus up to four Guests) to enter the Site per visit. At least one person in the group must hold a valid Permit and an appropriate Access Key.

Your birdwatching access is not transferable and you must not allow any other person to use your birdwatching access to visit the site.

Melbourne Water may cancel your birdwatching access at any time without notice and without providing reasons.

Melbourne Water will cancel your birdwatching access without notice if you fail to comply with the conditions outlined in this document or if you conduct Commercial Tours without Melbourne Water's written consent.

Melbourne Water reserves the right to alter birdwatching conditions at any time.

### 3. Long term birdwatching access

Long Term birdwatching access is valid for 2 years from the date the access is approved by Melbourne Water. Melbourne Water will contact you prior to your birdwatching access expiry date to give you an option to renew your access if you wish.

The fee payable for a Long Term birdwatching access is \$20.00 inclusive of GST.

You must ensure that your Guest(s), obey the instructions and procedures outlined in this document at all times while on the site.

## 4. Short term birdwatching access

Once-off visitors (interstate and international visitors only) who do not have Long Term birdwatching access approval and are not Guests of someone who has Long Term birdwatching access approval may obtain a Short Term birdwatching access approval and loan Access Key valid for one day.

Once-off visitors can request a Short Term birdwatching access approval online via the Melbourne Water website. Short Term birdwatching access approvals are available for collection from the Werribee Visitor Information Centre located at the Werribee Zoo from Monday to Sunday between 9am – 5pm. Valid identification documentation is required.

Loan Access keys must be returned before 4:00pm on the same day that they are issued and provide entry to the birdwatching access route only.

Further information can be obtained from the Werribee Visitor Information centre on (03) 8734 6006 or email [tourism@wyndham.vic.gov.au](mailto:tourism@wyndham.vic.gov.au); or the Western Treatment Plant on 131 722 or email [enquiry@melbournewater.com.au](mailto:enquiry@melbournewater.com.au).

## 5. Keys

You will need an birdwatching Access Key to be able to open the locked access gates indicated on the Map.

You must pay a refundable deposit of \$50.00 before a Long Term birdwatching Access Key can be issued or provide evidence of identity (e.g. drivers' licence or passport) before a Short Term birdwatching Access Key can be issued.

To have your deposit refunded, you must return your Access Key to Melbourne Water within two weeks from your Long Term birdwatching access expiry date. If you do not comply with this requirement, your deposit will not be refunded.

You must pay an additional deposit of \$50.00 for the replacement of lost or stolen Access Keys.

You must not lend your Access Key to any other person.

All Access Keys remain the property of Melbourne Water and must be returned to Melbourne Water on request.

Melbourne Water reserves the right to change the locks and issue new Access Keys at its discretion.

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On request by Melbourne Water, you must present your Access Keys in person at the site.

## 6. Arranging access

Melbourne Water has sole discretion to refuse to allow access to the site at any time.

Upon entering the site, all birdwatchers are expected to individually sign in by scanning a QR code. Signage explaining this process is positioned at each entrance. Birdwatchers do not need to register their visit through our Customer Service Centre.

## 7. Liability and risk

You and your Guests enter the site at your own risk and Melbourne Water will not accept any liability for any personal injury or property damage sustained by you or your Guests.

You agree to indemnify and keep indemnified Melbourne Water and its Personnel from and against all claims, liabilities, losses, damages, costs or expenses arising from or in connection with a breach of these conditions by you or your Guests.

You release Melbourne Water from all claims of any kind (including claims for personal injury or damage to property) and from all liability which may arise in connection with you or your Guests accessing the site.

## 8. Permitted activities

You may only access the site for the purpose of birdwatching and you must not engage in any other activities while you are on the site.

The following activities are strictly prohibited:

- Commercial Tours without Melbourne Water's written consent;
- Use of remote controlled model planes or 'Drones';
- Motorcycles and bicycles;
- Any activity that is not birdwatching;
- Access to areas not managed by Melbourne Water;
- Accessing the site during and after wet weather events.
- Accessing the site on total fire ban days.
  - Please check with Country Fire Authority prior to arrival.

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- Walking tours through the birdwatching area.

## 9. Protection of birds and animals

The site is a declared Wildlife Sanctuary and you must not handle, hunt, capture, kill or otherwise disturb any animals or birds.

You must not use “call-playback” for any species of crane or rail while you are on the site.

## 10. Compliance with directions

On request by Melbourne Water Personnel:

- a) You must show your Access Key; and
- b) You and your Guests must identify yourselves and provide evidence of your identity (e.g. a drivers’ licence).

While on site, you and your Guests must comply with all directions given by Melbourne Water Personnel or emergency services personnel.

While on site, you must keep your Nominated Mobile turned on and with you at all times so that Melbourne Water can contact you if there is an emergency.

## 11. Supervision of guests

You agree that you are solely responsible for your Guests while they are on the site.

You must ensure your Guests remain in your immediate presence and that they comply with these conditions at all times.

You must ensure that all Guests under the age of 18 are supervised by an adult at all times.

## 12. Rules regarding specific hazards

Hazard	Details and Rules
<b>Roads &amp; vehicles</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You must hold a valid a drivers’ licence.</li> <li>• Most roads on the site are not sealed.</li> </ul>

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Hazard	Details and Rules
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You must not drive at a speed of more than 40 kilometres per hour and you must comply with all other speed limits sign-posted on the site.</li> <li>You must drive in a safe manner which is appropriate, having regard to road and weather conditions.</li> <li>You must stay alert as livestock may be present on roads and lagoon banks.</li> <li>You must not get close to the lagoon ponds. There is a risk of slipping into the ponds.</li> <li>You must not attempt to drive through flooded roads.</li> <li>You must not park your vehicle in a manner which obstructs roads or other access tracks.</li> <li>You must drive with caution, as roads on the site are shared by a wide variety of vehicles, plant and machinery, and some roads have limited visibility.</li> </ul>
<b>Electricity and fire</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You must keep away from all electrical installations and fences.</li> <li>There are high, medium and low voltage power supplies on the site and electric fences are widely used – avoid contact with them.</li> <li>You must not bring any naked flame or other potential sources of ignition (e.g. cigarettes) onto the site.</li> </ul>
<b>Wastewater, recycled water and sludge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You must avoid all contact with wastewater (raw sewage) and sludge as they are a health hazard and contain pathogens.</li> <li>You must avoid contact with recycled water. This is treated effluent that still may contain some pathogens.</li> <li>Apply good hygiene practices (i.e. wash hands before eating).</li> <li>You must not enter lagoon ponds as they can be up to 8 metres deep and there is a risk of drowning.</li> <li>You must exercise extreme caution near lagoons as drying sludge can form a crust which may look solid but could give way and cause drowning.</li> </ul>

Hazard	Details and Rules
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wastewater gases are flammable and can be lethal in confined spaces.</li> </ul>
<b>Drinking water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You should not drink from the taps on site. Water quality at the site may vary in some areas and may not meet drinking water standards. You must provide your own drinking water.</li> </ul>
<b>Equipment and assets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You must keep away from all equipment on the site.</li> <li>Some equipment on the site is automated and may start without warning (e.g. aerators, flares, blower systems and control gates).</li> <li>You must not enter any confined spaces.</li> </ul>
<b>Environment, animals &amp; birds</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You must exercise appropriate caution as animals, birds, reptiles and insects are present on the site (including dangerous snakes, spiders and bees).</li> <li>You must exercise caution near trees as there is a risk of falling timber.</li> <li>You must not remove any soil, plants or other organic matter from the site.</li> <li>Carrying firearms or crossbows on the site is an offence and may lead to prosecution. You must not bring these items (or other weapons) on the site.</li> <li>No shooting is permitted within or over the Western Treatment Plant.</li> <li>You must not carry out any activities other than bird watching (i.e. you must not camp, light fires, dig for worms, look for mushrooms, cut or remove trees).</li> <li>You must not collect or eat shellfish (including mud oysters) on the site (including the foreshore) as this may be dangerous.</li> <li>You must not bring dogs, cats or other domestic pets on the site.</li> <li>You must not handle sick or dead animals / birds or their faeces.</li> </ul>

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Hazard	Details and Rules
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You must take all your rubbish with you when leaving the site.</li> </ul>

### 13. Privacy statement

Melbourne Water respects the privacy of your personal information. When you apply for birdwatching access, we collect personal information (name and contact details including email address and phone numbers) to administer birdwatching access, communicate with birdwatchers, issue and collect gate keys, and ensure safety and security for birdwatchers and their guests. This information is stored securely in our online birdwatching application process (see [www.pega.com](http://www.pega.com)) and may also be conveyed in emails. Our staff and Council staff may also ask to sight (but not collect) proof of identity documents such as a driver's licence or passport. Melbourne Water will not collect your banking details.

The information will be used and accessed by staff who manage our birdwatching application process, site access and security. It may be shared with staff of Wyndham City Council (Werribee Visitor Information Centre) for the purpose of issuing gate keys. It may also be provided to emergency services in the event of a site incident.

The *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* gives people the right to seek access to their personal information at Melbourne Water. To find out how, or to see our general privacy policy, visit our website, [melbournewater.com.au](http://melbournewater.com.au), or contact our Privacy Advisor on 131 722 or [enquiry@melbournewater.com.au](mailto:enquiry@melbournewater.com.au)

### 14. Contact details

#### Postal address

Melbourne Water  
Western Treatment Plant  
P.O. Box 4342  
Melbourne, VIC 3001

Telephone: 131 722

Email: [enquiry@melbournewater.com.au](mailto:enquiry@melbournewater.com.au)

Emergency: (61 3) 8734 4222 or (000)

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