



Maribyrnong River Main Sewer Upgrade Community Update March 2020

Upgrade works completed ahead of schedule

We are pleased to let you know that works to upgrade 7.2 kilometres of the Maribyrnong River Main (MRM) Sewer in Avondale Heights, Essendon West and Aberfeldie are now complete. Melbourne Water and our project delivery partners, CPB and Black & Veatch Joint Venture, thank residents and local businesses for their patience and understanding throughout the upgrade works, which began in mid-2018.

We are now focussing on reinstating areas affected by our work activities before we remove the main site compound from Canning Street Reserve in Avondale Heights.

Over the coming weeks, we will be re-grassing and re-planting in the local region to rehabilitate disturbed areas. This will be undertaken in accordance with revegetation and reinstatement plans approved by Moonee Valley City Council and Parks Victoria. Local input to the revegetation plans was also provided by the Friends of Steele Creek and Friends of Maribyrnong Valley. We thank these agencies and groups for their input.

Other areas affected by our works will be restored to their original level of amenity or similar condition. Reinstatement will be inspected by Council to ensure community safety and well-being.

Why was this project important?

The MRM is one of the main sewers in Melbourne Water's 400 kilometre network, which transports approximately 24 million litres of wastewater each day to the Western Treatment Plant.

Built in stages between 1963 and 1977, some sections of the sewer were coming to the end of their working life. Upgrading the sewer was an important initiative for the residents of the north-west suburbs as it will ensure the sewer continues to provide the community with a secure and reliable sewerage service for decades to come.

Through delivering this project, your local area will benefit from improved community liveability, service reliability and environmental outcomes supported by world-class infrastructure.



The MRM sewer generally follows the alignment of the Maribyrnong River

What we did

We upgraded the sewer while ensuring there were no impacts or interruptions to your water or sewerage services. To do this, we installed temporary above-ground sewer bypass pipelines to allow local services to keep operating at all times.

To upgrade the sewer, we used a trenchless technology technique called 'relining'. This technology allowed us to reline the inside of the existing sewer with new plastic sleeving without having to dig it up, which had a number of benefits including:

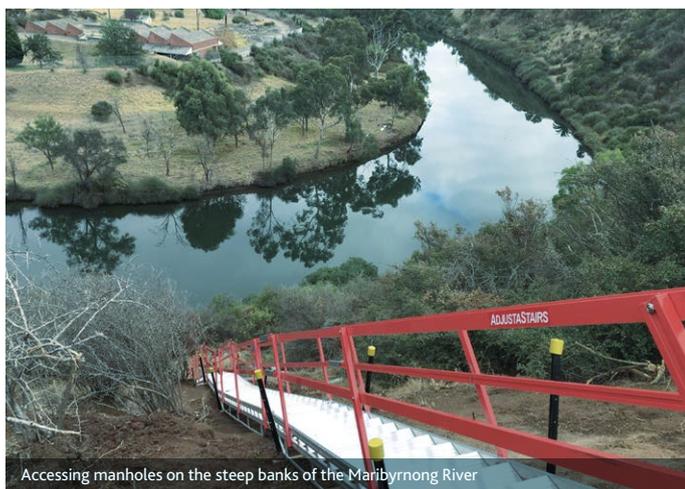
- Significantly reducing the impacts to the important cultural and environmental values of the landscape we were working in;
- Ensuring that disruptions and inconveniences at street level were kept to a minimum, and residents and businesses didn't have to worry about open trenches on their doorsteps;
- Allowing the upgrade works to be completed more quickly and efficiently compared to traditional trenching methods;
- Ensuring the structural integrity of the sewer is maintained for decades to come.

Access tracks to manholes

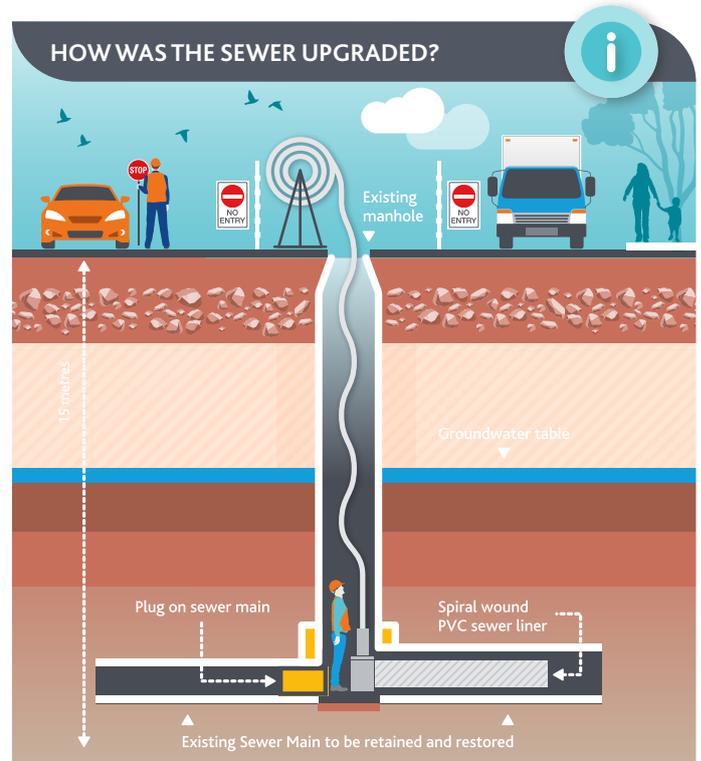
Some of the manholes are located in areas of steep and difficult terrain; these can be up to 40 metres deep (equivalent to the height of a 15 storey building).

Access tracks for construction vehicles and machinery needed to be created so we could safely and efficiently get to the manholes to complete the works. This required significant earthworks in some areas due to the landscape. Some of these access tracks will remain permanently in place to enable ongoing maintenance activities to be performed safely into the future.

All temporary access tracks will be reinstated, including re-seeding with grass and the control of weeds.



Accessing manholes on the steep banks of the Maribyrnong River



Upgrading the 7.2 kilometre sewer involved:

- Constructing temporary and permanent access tracks to manholes
- Cleaning and relining the sewer by inserting a new plastic sleeve into the existing pipe
- Filling the gap between the existing pipe and new sewer liner with cement (grouting)
- Rehabilitating ageing and damaged manholes and decommissioning some that were no longer needed.



Sewer relining works at the street level

Respecting local heritage and the environment

Throughout the project, we worked closely with Moonee Valley City Council, Parks Victoria, Wurundjeri Land Council and community groups to manage the upgrade works, and to ensure the significant cultural heritage and ecological values of the local area were protected.

Project-specific environmental management plans were in place to protect native plants and animals throughout all of our work activities. A cultural heritage management plan was also in place during the entire project.

The project was carefully designed to avoid impacts to as many trees and shrubs as possible, minimising the amount of vegetation that needed to be removed

We are now working to replace all the vegetation (mainly grasses) where removal was unavoidable. We will be leaving a lasting legacy by enhancing the environment and amenity of the local area through native plantings.



Revegetation plots will be established in the area



The Maribyrnong River is a culturally significant waterway

RE-PLANTING IN THE LOCAL AREA



In April-June 2020, we'll be reinstating and re-grassing areas disturbed by our works. We'll also be planting more than 10,000 native trees, shrubs and grasses in the local region, building on and complimenting other revegetation works undertaken by Parks Victoria, Friends groups and Moonee Valley City Council.

A weed control program will also be implemented over the next two years, targeting a range of high-threat weeds including boxthorn, prickly pear, thistles, blackberry, desert ash and others. These weeds will be replaced with native vegetation to provide habitat for birds and other animals.

For the next two years, we'll closely monitor the newly planted vegetation, watering them particularly over the summer months, and controlling encroaching weeds to ensure their best chance of survival.



New plantings will provide habitat for birds and other animals



Native plants will include trees, shrubs and grasses



PROJECT TIMELINE



We anticipated that the upgrade works would be completed by mid-2020; however, this was achieved much earlier than planned. We did this by having a number of crews working in multiple locations at the same time, which allowed us to complete the works more quickly and efficiently.

Community consultation and communication

2016 – 2018
Planning, design and approvals phase 

June – August 2018
Pre-construction activities undertaken 

August 2018
Sewer upgrade works start 

Mid – 2020
Completion of works 

Thank you

Once again, Melbourne Water and our project delivery partners, CPB and Black & Veatch Joint Venture, would like to thank the local community for your patience and understanding while we completed these important works.

We also thank Moonee Valley City Council, Parks Victoria, Wurundjeri Land Council, Friends of Maribyrnong Valley and Friends of Steele Creek for working with us to ensure the successful delivery of the project. We could not have completed this important sewer upgrade without these strong partnerships.



The MRM project team joined the Friends of Maribyrnong Valley for a VIP community planting day and their famous morning tea



The MRM project team met with Friends of Steele Creek members to minimise impacts around the Steele Creek area



The Maribyrnong River near Prospect Street, Essendon West

MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more information about the reinstatement works or re-planting in the local area, visit the project webpage at: www.melbournewater.com.au/MRM or contact us at Melbourne Water on 131 722 or email enquiry@melbournewater.com.au



To access the TTY and Interpreter Services
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