



Huntingdale Wetlands Litter Trap Upgrade November 2023 Update

Project overview

Melbourne's rivers and waterways are essential to our way of life.

Scotchmans Creek and the Huntingdale Wetlands provide significant environmental amenity for the local community and fauna. In recent years, the volume of debris and litter entering the Huntingdale Wetlands has been an issue in maintaining the wetland's health.



That's why we're upgrading the channel inlet to improve how we catch litter during wet weather events. This ensures Scotchmans Creek will continue to be an asset today, tomorrow and for generations to come.

Works will be focused around the current litter trap and will involve:

- Reshaping the bank of the channel on the side of Scotchmans Creek Trail to ensure smooth flow of water towards the litter trap.
- Installing a new retaining wall and reconstructing the litter trap to improve its function.
- Removal of some vegetation and trimming of willow trees. Melbourne Water understands the value of trees to community and will work with local groups and Council to identify opportunities for offset planting.



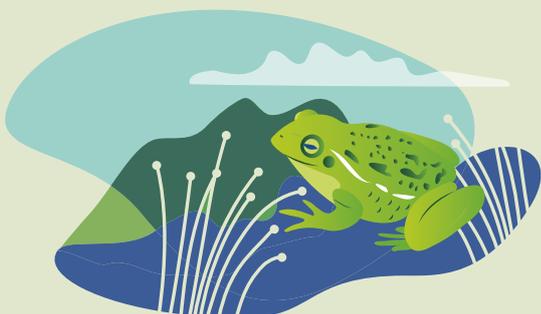
Why are these works important to our community?

These works are important in reducing the amount of waste that enters the wetland.

The works will:

- Improve the ability for the litter trap to capture large debris during heavy rainfall events before it enters the wetland.
- Reduce the volume of litter and debris entering the wetland.
- Reduce manual handling of debris within the wetland which is a safety risk for Melbourne Water staff.

Contractors Aqua Metro Services on behalf of Melbourne Water will be delivering this project.



What to expect

While Melbourne Water makes every effort to minimise impacts to the community, during works you may notice:

- **Traffic flow** - Increased vehicle movements along Stanley Avenue, Mt Waverley. There may be instances where traffic management will be in place whilst machinery is moved in and out of site.
- **Temporary changes to path access** - To accommodate works, there will be instances when traffic management will need to escort pedestrians and cyclists or ask them to dismount. E.g. when we have concrete trucks entering the site. We will try to do this outside of peak commuting hours.
- **Noise** - During construction hours, there will be temporary increases in noise from trucks and machinery.
- **Dust** - There may be some dust due to demolition of concrete, however dust suppression measures will be undertaken to minimise the impact on residents and the community.
- **Vegetation** - 3 trees and some small shrubs will be removed to accommodate the reshaping of the channel.

Wetlands are designed to act as environmental 'kidneys' for Melbourne and capture the pollutants that wash into our stormwater drains from roads, hard surfaces, parks and gardens.



How do wetlands work?

Wetlands typically have three parts that work together to help filter stormwater, protect it from flooding and improve the quality of water entering our local waterways:

- 1 **The inlet zone** – water is directed from your local river or creek to the wetland, allowing for litter, sediment and other pollutants to settle to the bottom.
- 2 **The macrophyte zone** – water is filtered by micro-organisms and algae that grow on the plants, removing nutrients in the water, especially nitrogen, to help reduce algal blooms in Port Phillip Bay.
- 3 **The high flow bypass channel** – after water has spent 1-3 days in the wetland, cleaner water is released back into the local river or creek and water levels return to normal.

Managing tree trimming and removal

Melbourne Water understands that vegetation removal is a key issue for the local community.

In order to upgrade the litter trap and maintain the health of the wetland, approximately 3 trees and some small shrubs will need to be removed along the embankment. As part of these works, we will also be undertaking trimming of some willow trees along the embankment of Scotchmans Creek.

While many people consider willows to be an attractive feature along waterways, they can pose a serious threat to our waterways and drains. Their dense canopy, invasive roots and heavy leaf fall can smother creeks, impact the water quality and flow, and reduce habitat for fish and platypus.

By trimming the willows along Scotchmans Creek, we will help to create a healthier creek and provide better habitat for native animals, birds and fish.

We are working with Council and local community groups to understand opportunities for offset planting.



Managing flood and drainage

At Melbourne Water, we manage a complex drainage system across the whole city and plan for the impacts of stormwater on our iconic rivers, creeks and our bays, and to keep our homes and businesses safe from flooding.

We also work within our communities, building their resilience and preparation for flooding events.

ESTIMATED PROJECT TIMELINE



Works will begin in early 2024 and take 4 to 5 months to complete, weather permitting. Normal working hours will be between 7.00am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday.



LATE 2023 - Planning



EARLY 2024 - Construction



MID 2024 - Construction complete

*These dates are indicative and subject to change.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS



Chat to the project team

Come and meet the Huntingdale Wetlands Litter Trap Upgrade project team in our upcoming community information sessions.

Tuesday 28 November 7.30am – 9.00am

Saturday 2 December 11.00am – 12.30pm

The Melbourne Water Project Team will have an information stand set up along Scotchmans Creek Trail, near the Stanley Avenue entrance. Come and say hello and have a chat to the project team about the proposed works.

Contact us

We will communicate with residents throughout works about upcoming impacts via letters and door knocks.

For more information about this project, please call 1800 960 977 or 131 722.

We will make every effort to minimise the impact of these works on the local community and the environment, and thank you for your patience.

Melbourne Water is committed to delivering world-class solutions with minimal impact on the community, on businesses and on the environment.

CONTACT US



For further project information about the construction schedule, traffic changes and community impacts contact, the Huntingdale Wetlands Litter Trap Upgrade project team:



Scan the QR code for direct access to project updates and information.



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To access the TTY and Interpreter Services
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