# Understanding drainage systems

## Video transcript

**Narrator:** Picture this: your afternoon BBQ plans are hit with heavy rain. Your gutters are clean and there's nothing blocking the drains. So, why is stormwater still flowing onto your street?

Melbourne's drainage is a complex system and a shared responsibility. Together with local councils, we manage stormwater first through small street drains, then into larger regional drains before flowing into natural waterways and finally into the bay.

Our drainage system is built to handle most common storms that occur in a year. But no system can be completely flood-proof, and that means our drains can be overwhelmed by extreme weather.

So, why not build new drains then? Limited space, existing infrastructure and the disruption to community make that challenging.

Instead, Melbourne Water focuses on maintaining, managing and upgrading the existing drainage system to help manage the impact of flooding. Take a look at how we do that.

[button appears with text: Maintain]

**Narrator:** Maintain.

[button appears with text: Manage]

**Narrator:** Manage.

[button appears with text: Upgrade]

**Narrator:** Upgrade.

## Option: Maintain

**Narrator:** We regularly check on drains and make sure they are working properly. If we find any problems, we upgrade the drains to keep your neighbourhood safe.

## Option: Manage

**Narrator:** We remove rubbish, sediment or other blockages to regional drains to ensure waterflow is under control. If you notice any damage or blocks to your street drains, contact your local council.

## Option: Upgrade

**Narrator:** We review and upgrade older drains, pumping stations, tidal gates and other infrastructure when needed.

## After all options have been selected

**Narrator:** Do you want to see how it all connects? Take a look at Melbourne Water's drainage networks below and discover how it helps service your area. And when you're ready -- have a look at our next video that's all about how you can help prepare your area and community for flooding.

[End transcript]