

Frequently asked questions

What is the Research to Warrandyte Water Main (Link Main – Stage 1) project?

It is the planning and design of a new underground drinking water pipeline connecting the Winneke–Preston Pipeline at Parsons Road, Eltham to the Silvan–Preston Pipeline at Harris Gully Road, Warrandyte. The project aims to improve network performance and support long-term water security.

Why is this project needed?

Melbourne's drinking water network needs to support a growing population. Linking these two major pipelines adds flexibility and helps the system move water to where it is needed most during peak demand periods.

What stage is the project at?

The project is in the feasibility design phase. Melbourne Water is completing technical assessments, environmental studies, cultural heritage work and field investigations to understand local conditions and test whether the alignment is suitable.

Construction is not occurring during this phase.

What happens during the feasibility design phase?

This is an early planning phase of a project. During this phase, we undertake studies and field investigations to understand the landscape, environmental values, cultural heritage sensitivities and engineering constraints. These findings help determine whether a viable, low-impact alignment exists.

How was the preferred alignment chosen?

It was identified during concept design as the lowest-impact option, with most of the alignment located within an existing transmission easement.

The alignment is still being tested through feasibility work, including environmental, cultural and engineering assessments, and requires approval from AusNet.

Will construction happen during the feasibility design phase?

No. Feasibility design includes planning and investigations only. Construction will occur in a later stage once approvals are in place.

Will land access be required?

Some investigations require access to private and public land. If access is needed, landholders will be contacted before work occurs on or near their property.

What does it mean if work is happening near my property?

It means Melbourne Water is collecting information needed for design and approvals. These activities do not indicate construction and do not imply that a property will be acquired. Most investigations are short-term and involve minimal disturbance.

Will any properties be acquired?

No decisions about property acquisition have been made. At this stage, the investigations do not indicate that acquisition will occur.

How does this project relate to other major works in the area, such as North East Link?

This project is separate from the North East Link Project and other local works. Melbourne Water will coordinate with relevant agencies where practical.

Will the pipeline affect parks, trails or the Yarra River corridor?

The preferred alignment avoids the most culturally and environmentally sensitive areas. Any temporary access needs for investigations will be communicated in advance.

How is cultural heritage being considered?

We are working with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to ensure all investigations are culturally appropriate and meet Cultural Heritage Management Plan requirements.

What happens if an aboriginal cultural heritage artifact is found on my property when the cultural heritage assessments are undertaken?

If an artefact is found on any properties, it is required to be registered as an Aboriginal place. This will then lead to an area of cultural heritage sensitivity around the artefact location.

Will vegetation be removed as part of this stage of the project?

This stage focuses on planning and investigations. It does not involve large-scale vegetation removal.

Some small, targeted disturbance may be needed for activities such as ecological surveys, cultural heritage assessments, geotechnical testing or service proving. We will avoid or minimise vegetation removal where possible and follow any required approvals.

How will Melbourne Water protect vegetation and habitat?

Environmental specialists are completing field surveys to map vegetation, habitat and sensitive ecological areas. This information will help refine the preferred alignment to avoid or minimise disturbance wherever possible. Any future impacts would require formal environmental approvals before construction begins.

Will threatened species be affected?

Ecological assessments are underway to identify any threatened plants, animals or habitats in the investigation area.

If threatened species or habitat are found, we will avoid impacts where possible. If impacts cannot be avoided, we will manage them in line with environmental legislation and approval requirements.

What happens if vegetation needs to be removed in later stages?

If vegetation removal is required during future construction, Melbourne Water will follow the relevant Victorian environmental regulations, including the need for offsets, approvals and mitigation measures.

What are the benefits of the project?

The project strengthens Melbourne’s drinking water network, supports performance during high-demand periods and improves long-term water security.

How can I stay updated?

Melbourne Water will share updates through:

- project letters and emails
- the project webpage
- council briefings
- community notifications
- direct communication with landholders before investigation work

You can stay updated by visiting the project webpage at melbournewater.com.au/WWM1 or contacting the team via:

- Email: Stage1.LinkMain@melbournewater.com.au
- Phone: **1800 290 769**