

Minutes

Title:	Koo Wee Rup Longwarry Flood Protection District Advisory Committee (#4) – Meeting No 9
Meeting date:	Thursday, 12 March 2026
Meeting time:	10.00 – 11.00+ am, followed by District Tour to 2.30 pm (including lunch)
Location:	Sue Anderson's home: 20 Anderson Road, Bunyip
Attendees:	Bruce Turner, Ian Nicolson, Ian Anderson, Matthew Coleman, Frank Rovers, Susan Anderson, Kate Yeowart, Con Raffa, Angela Farnell and Annu Solanki (Baw Baw SC), Paul Rees (MW), Tom le Cerf (MW), Sue Finley (MW), Patrick Hook (MW) Apologies: Kuan Yeoh and Paul Bucys (Casey), David Hair (Baw Baw), Scott Martin/ Brendan Nunn (Cardinia SC)
Chairperson:	Bruce Turner
Note takers:	MW and Bruce

1. Welcome, apologies		Presenter
10.00	1.1 Welcome & apologies	Bruce Turner (Chair)
	1.2 New member update (replacement for Garry Oates)	Tom/ Paul
	Tom reported that we have been unable to find a replacement so, as previously agreed, the Committee is happy to leave the vacancy to the next refresh (likely late 2026 / early 2027) of the entire Committee. The current terms of members are 1-May-2023 to 1-May-2027.	

2. Communications & Engagement		Presenter
2.1	Price Submission update	Paul
	Paul reported that there have been positive signs from the consultant working for the Essential Services Commission that MW's rate increase will be supported. However no official report/ response has been received. If the increase is endorsed, it will bring the total increase in funding for the district to more than 30% including the commitment to pay for maintenance of the carrier drains from broader Melbourne-wide drainage rates, not the precept rate.	
	In dollar terms this is around \$122K per year additional due to a 10% increase in the precept rate (\$0.61M / 5 years) and \$248K per year (waterways and drainage charge funding full carrier drain works). Overall this equates to around \$370K per year additional to spend in the District.	
	Frank commented that this is still catching up from past years of inadequate maintenance. Paul responded that with more work being done by inhouse teams, MW and customers are getting much better value for money as well as better availability and experience with reach mowing compared to using contractors.	
	<i>Post-script 2-Apr-26 – The Essential Services Commission has released their draft submission, in which it has agreed with the proposed funding arrangements for the Koo Wee Rup and Longwarry Flood Protection District for 2026 to 2031.</i>	

- 2.2 **Future engagement program (Customer Satisfaction survey – test with Committee – 8.1)** MW
- Paul said he had emailed MW's communications and engagement team about the timing of the next survey. The Committee can expect an update on this in the future.

3. MW Works approach and update		Presenter
3.1	Flood Mapping/ Modelling and Asset Renewal (Service & Asset Lifecycle program) update – future presentation from modellers (8.2) Tom reported that the modellers are in the middle of building the model across all 38 Councils in MW's area of responsibility. Matt asked if the model would be responsive to the latest and planned developments in the region. Paul confirmed that the modellers are using Nearmap which is updated monthly to track current developments and known future developments are also being factored in. The current forecast is for completion of the model in Dec 2026 with the release of the draft information for consultation likely to occur in early 2027. Ian A asked if there was any scope for more monitoring stations. For example, McDonalds Drain is the first to rise and therefore provides early warning of flooding. Paul indicated that more rain gauges and level sensors are being rolled out. Mackies Drain is another one earmarked for increased monitoring. Tom added that MW is also considering where most houses/ properties would be affected in prioritising monitoring points. Frank pointed out that it is not just urban development that affects runoff.	Tom
3.2	Current Works (maintenance, capital, precept) – including in response to issues raised last meeting Patrick and Sue provided a detailed update accompanied by a handout (see separate attachment)	Patrick and Sue
3.3	Update on progress with 'Level of Service approach' to prioritising works prior to completion of mapping/ modelling Paul said the team is looking at whole-of-district mapping, assessment and analysis. Pat will then use this to target more detailed drone assessments. The maintenance team has a 50 litre drone to do herbicide spraying and is also looking at acquiring a long-arm sprayer which would be more efficient. Kate asked about the potential for the involvement of AI in conducting this type of work. Paul and Patrick said there would still be a need for human involvement due to the proximity of roads. However, the remote sensing analysis of satellite, aerial and drone imagery lends itself to the use of AI for analysis.	Tom and Paul

4. Actions from previous meetings		Presenter
4.1	Refer to minutes of last meeting and spreadsheet circulated prior to meeting Discussion by exception – what is of most interest in the actions not yet completed? [Cora Lynn ford handover?] No issues were raised.	MW/ all

5. Stakeholder feedback/ general business		Presenter
5.1	New feedback (especially emerging priorities for new maintenance in 2026-27) / AOB - Ian N reported that Walkers Road Drain has been clogged and backing up for around 3 years - Frank highlighted regrowth in the NW Catch Drain – Patrick indicated that a twice-yearly cutback is probably required - Frank noted that repurposing of spoil from the entrance to the Yallock has not been done well previously (east side - Toner Road side) and could restrict peak flows. Patrick undertook to have a look at this as he is already investigating this section of the Yallock for a potential desilt. - Ian A noted reach mowing on 8 Mile Road. Paul noted the change in approach from 2 sprays and 1 mow per year to 1 spray and 2 mows which is proving more effective, since sprays only slow the growth, they don't remove the biomass.	MW

6. Next meetings (TBC)		Presenter
6.1	Thursdays, 16 July and 12 November 2026 (on Zoom) These dates were confirmed by those present.	Bruce Turner

District Tour itinerary

Site	Notes	Lead	Start	Finish
Sue A's property	Committee Meeting then site tour		10:00	11:15
Longwarry – Little St (Toy Drain)	Discuss maintenance access and routine maintenance	Tom	11:15	11:30
Martin Rd	Discuss maintenance of minor drains and erosion	Patrick	11:45	12:00
Lunch	Longwarry Park opposite Longwarry Hotel	Tom - catering	12:00	12:30
Lovers Lane	Swampcare	Sue F/ Pam??	12:45	1:15
13 Mile Drain	Recent desilt	Patrick	1:20	1:35
Brownbill Drain	Typical small drain maintenance/council vs mw responsibility	Tom	1:45	2:00
Travel back to Sue's				2:30

See the separate detailed notes on the issues at most of the above locations that were handed out on the tour. A couple of photos taken by Bruce are included below (at Sue Anderson's property and Walkers Drain at Lovers Lane, Garfield with Pam from the local Landcare group).





KWRLFPD Works Update

Patrick Hook

12/03/2026

Agenda

- **Retrospective: Nov 2025 – Mar 2026**
 - Deep Creek Catch Drain – Veg Mgmt
 - Thirteen Mile Drain – Desilt
- **Future works Q4 25-26FY**
 - Desilts - Precept & Carrier (Dec 25 onward)
 - Upcoming works (Civil, Land Management & NRM)
 - Ongoing preventative maintenance
- **Investigative works (ongoing)**
 - Bunyip Main Outfall Drain – Levee Clearing
 - Drone Inspection - Deep Creek Catch Drain
 - Yallock Number Four Drain – Cora Lynn Outfall Desilt



Retrospective: Nov 2025 – Mar 2026

OFFICIAL

Deep Creek Catch Drain – Reinstated Safe Access



Feb 2026 – Ballarto Rd

Deep Creek Catch Drain – Vegetation Management

Remote Mower



Deep Creek Catch Drain

- Remote Mower & 12t Excavator used
- Works area 1.65kms x 12m in width



OFFICIAL

Thirteen Mile Drain – During Desilt



Nov 2025 – Looking North

OFFICIAL

Thirteen Mile Drain – Post Desilt



Feb 2026 – Looking North

OFFICIAL

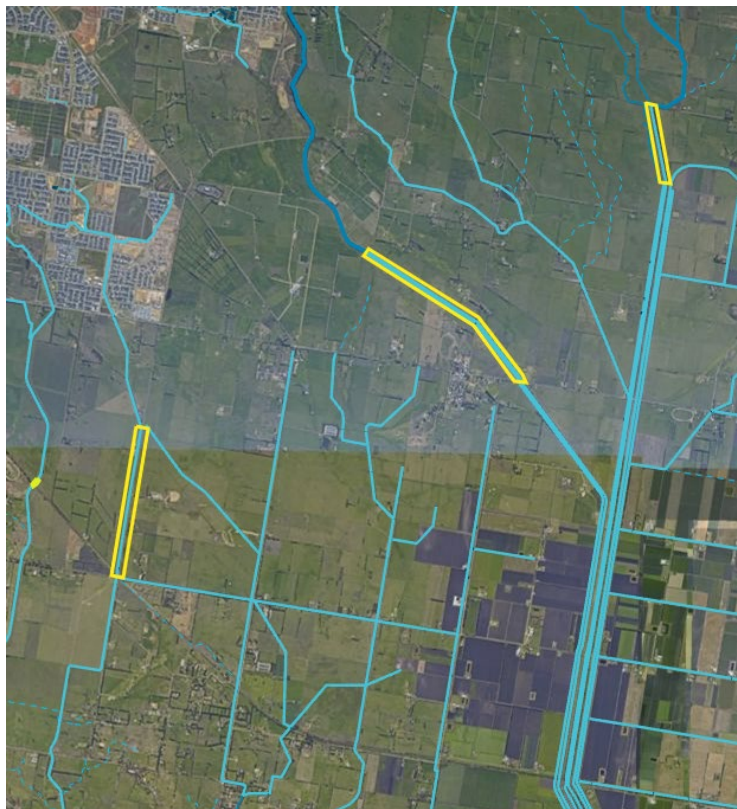
Thirteen Mile Drain – Post Desilt



Feb 2026 – Looking South

Future works Q4 25-26FY

Desilt Locations - 25-26 FY



Desilt Areas Highlighted in Yellow



Planned Desilt Works

- Thirteen Mile Road 675m (Garfield)
- Muddy Gates Drain 2kms (Clyde)
- Toomuc Creek (Lower) 1km (Officer South)
- Cardinia Creek (Lower) 1.56kms (*Contingent on Cultural Heritage Permit*)

Upcoming works – Q4 25-26 FY

OFFICIAL

Vegetation Control

- MUDDY GATES DRAIN - GROOMING OF TYPHA / CHANNEL – TOORADIN
- LONGWARRY DRAIN - GROOMING OF TYPHA - EVANS ROAD BUNYIP - TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT
- THOMPSONS DRAIN - INSTREAM WOODY DEBRIS / VEG REMOVAL - BUNYIP
- PHILLIPS RD DRAIN - WOODY DEBRIS REMOVAL - 1.9kms (BAYLES)
- DEEP CK (EAST) - GORSE & BLACKBERRY CONTROL - 1606/LEV003E - SOLDIERS RD TO MCGREGOR RD
- BUNYIP MAIN OUTFALL DRAIN - TREE REMOVAL - BALLARTO RD TO NINE MILE RD
- BUNYIP MAIN OUTFALL DRAIN - TREE REMOVAL - KWR RD TO BALLARTO RD
- BLADENS DRAIN - TREE REMOVAL - KOO WEE RUP - CARDINIA COUNCIL REQUEST
- YALLOCK CREEK & CUT - BLACKBERRY CONTROL – MONOMEITH
- NORTH WEST CATCH DRAIN - TREE REMOVAL - BALLARTO TO KWR RD
- O'SHEAS RD DRAIN - WOODY DEBRIS REMOVAL & VEG CONTROL - TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

General Maintenance

- BUNYIP MAIN OUTFALL DRAIN - ACCESS TRACK REPAIRS
- MCDONALDS CATCH DRAIN - ACCESS TRACK REPAIRS

Preventative Maintenance

Channel Weed Spraying

Koo Wee Rup Longwarry Flood Protection District

Ongoing Maintenance

Reach Mowing

Scope; Cut Grass within channel, including invert, bank & one slasher cut along the top of bank

Ongoing Maintenance

Land Management

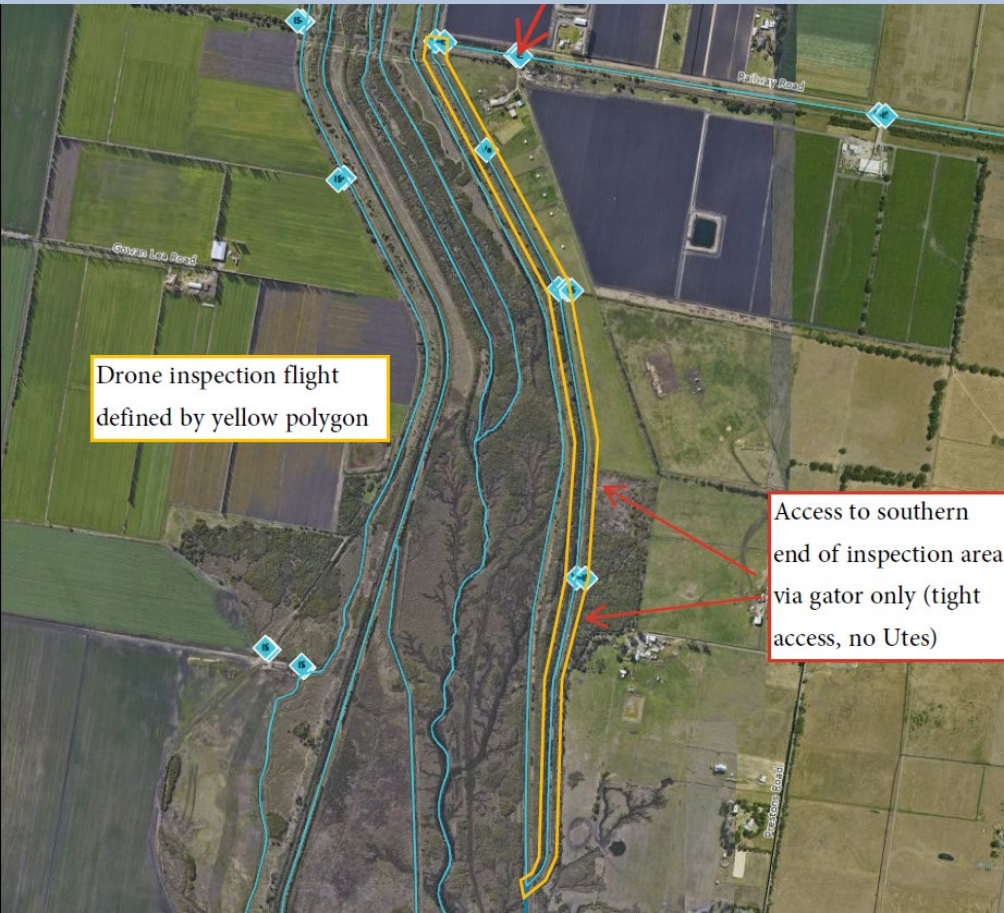
Noxious / invasive weed control, vegetation management etc.

Ongoing Maintenance



Investigative works

Drone Inspection - Deep Creek Catch Drain



Flight Path - Railway Rd To Confluence Deep Creek (Lower)

Purpose of inspection

- Access for future desilting works (26-27FY)
- Vegetation condition / Impact mitigation methodology
- Condition of channel – flight to be conducted at low tide with no rainfall (from invert to top of bath either side)

Bunyip Main Outfall Drain – Levee Clearing

Looking SouthWest



Bunyip River Road

BUNYIP MAIN DRAIN
(NTH) - 13 MILE RD TO
CORA LYNNE LEVEE
BANK (3820/LEV005N)

- Tree removal from Levee Bank
- Powerline Company
- Ongoing Maintenance – Reach Mowing

Bunyip Main Outfall Drain – Levee Clearing



- Currently receiving estimates for two quoted areas for these works
- Timing will depend on environmental controls, contractor availability and budget availability.

Yallock Number Four Drain – Cora Lynn Outfall Desilt



- Desilt built-up sand and vegetation from outfall
- Repurpose material on-site
- Scope of desilt length still to be determined

Nov 2025

Thank you

Patrick Hook

Operations & Maintenance Officer

patrick.hook@melbournewater.com.au

Sue Finley

Waterway & Land Officer

Sue.finley@melbournewater.com.au

Waterways & Catchment Service Southeast

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Interpreter

For an interpreter, please call the
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Agenda

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Bunyip River

Anderson Rd, Bunyip.

Purpose of the Site

- Discuss programs LCLW and Capital - Veg for Environment, Healthy Waterways Strategy on private land, accessibility and desired outcomes.

Key Features

- This 2020-24 Capital project contributed to 4.5 kilometers to the vegetation extent target for this priority area (BUNY11).
- The project aimed to improve riparian habitat and assist mitigating bank erosion/slumping through the removal of weeds and reinstatement of indigenous vegetation.
- The project was also initiated to improve hydraulic flows by removing willows and wattles which tend to drop limbs and disrupt the flow of water.

Why We're Showcasing This Site

- Demonstrates complexities of maintaining assets and enhancing environmental condition of waterways – through private properties and public land.
- The different types of ways Melbourne Water can work with property owners through LCLW grant funding or Capital works on high priority waterways.

Current Issues or Opportunities

- Ongoing relationships with landowners/stakeholders and creating beneficial bio links through the region for key fauna species. Erosion and hydrology issues and how we can work together to slow processes.

Partners Involved

- Property owners including Sue and John Anderson, DEECA and Cardinia Shire Council with the larger Capital project with adjoining land parcels.

Recent or Planned Works

- The Capital Project focused on the project will control weeds along both sides of the Bunyip Main Drain. And revegetation with EVC specific species planted in scattered plots designed to enhance and connect habitat for the Southern Brown Bandicoot.
- LCLW grants in the last few years have targeted weed control in the area and some plantings on Sue Andersons property.

Toy Drain

Little Road Longwarry

Purpose of the Site

- Discuss maintenance, private land, and accessibility.

Key Features

- Site with recent desilt, complaint from upstream developer identified location. Access for routine maintenance difficult but as site impacts other properties justifies efforts to keep on top of maintenance

Why We are Showcasing This Site

- Demonstrates complexities of maintaining assets on private properties

Current Issues or Opportunities

- Ongoing relationships with landowner i.e. one of hundreds of sites which require prior notification.
- Additional costs for maintaining.

Partners Involved

na

Recent or Planned Works

- Desilting, spraying of instream vegetation

Martin Drain

Martin Rd, Longwarry VIC 3816

Purpose of the Site

- Discuss of ongoing maintenance, drainage functionality and changing requirements

Key Features

- Impacts of ongoing development

Why We're Showcasing This Site

- Demonstrates complexities of maintaining assets so close to private landholders
- Environmental requirements
- Unknown costs associated with maintenance (Sediment contaminated with PFAS a group of synthetic chemicals used in various industrial and consumer products for their water and grease-resistant properties)

Current Issues or Opportunities

- Maintenance limitations (Reach mowing only, herbicide use unviable)

Partners Involved

- Baw Baw Shire Council (broader body of corrective and ongoing preventative maintenance works within the Baw Baw Shire area)

Recent or Planned Works

- Desilted in the April during the 24-25FY
- Ongoing maintenance includes Reach Mowing (Jan, May)

Walkers Drain

Lovers Lane, Garfield

- **Purpose of the Site**
- Melbourne Water's land previously grazed leased land now Walker Rd Drain Reserve and functioning Drain.



Key Features

- Previous grazing lease - originally full of Blackberries and Weeds - Enormous community input and efforts to restore and keep maintained, LCLW grants – Landcare Grants – Cardinia Shire support – Whetten Hall grants – Corporate volunteer funding investment.

Why We're Showcasing This Site

- Demonstrates bio links and opportunities to establish habitat nodes and corridors for wildlife. Bandicoots recorded using the site – over 65 bird species using the area. Ongoing and long-term monitoring.

Current Issues or Opportunities

- Ongoing relationships with local community – Landcare and Cardinia Shire

Partners Involved

- Cannibal Creek Landcare Group & associated groups of WPCLN, Cardinia Shire, Corporate Volunteer Groups, HOLCIM, CEC

Recent or Planned Works

- Community Planting Day 3rd May – corporate planning sessions and School groups and Landcare plantings planned through September.
- MW – Mowing twice yearly (Jan and September)



Thirteen Mile Drain

Thirteen Mile Rd, Garfield VIC 3814

Purpose of the Site

- Discuss of ongoing maintenance, drainage functionality and changing requirements

Key Features

- Minimizing and mitigating downstream impacts (sedimentation / herbicide application)
- Cost effectiveness & decision making (repurposing of material on Melbourne Water Land)

Why We're Showcasing This Site

- Demonstrates complexities of maintaining large earthen drains (Balancing capacity and structural integrity)
- Sediment accumulation (Catchment from large portion of Garfield – confluence of Walkers Rd Drain Extension & Brownbills Drain)

Current Issues or Opportunities

- Track stabilization & OH&S requirements for out plant (possibility of hydro seeding if re-establishment of vegetation is slow / unsuccessful)

Partners Involved

- Internal only (Melbourne Water owned Land)

Recent or Planned Works

- Desilted in the Nov during the 25-26FY
- Ongoing maintenance includes Reach Mowing (Jan, May) & Channel Weed spraying (Sep)

Brownbill Drain

Brownbill Drain Garfield

Purpose of the Site

- Discuss maintenance, drainage responsibility and accessibility.

Key Features

- Site with increased level of service (debris collection PM). Melbourne Water drain on opposite side of road to a number of the houses. The Access for routine maintenance difficult but as site impacts other properties justifies efforts to keep on top of maintenance

Why We're Showcasing This Site

- Demonstrates complexities of responsibilities of maintenance.

Current Issues or Opportunities

- Ongoing relationships with landowners, council
- Additional costs in maintaining.

Partners Involved

Cardinia Council

Recent or Planned Works

- Spraying of instream vegetation, reach mowing

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Follow our Let's Talk page to be the first to know about Melbourne Water news, events, projects and works happening in the Koo Wee Rup-Longwarry Flood Protection District.

<https://letstalk.melbournewater.com.au/kooweeruplongwarrycommunityhub>

Koo Wee Rup and Longwarry Flood Protection District

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

8 May 2026

Chris Brace
Executive General Manager, Service Futures
Melbourne Water

Luke Connell
Director Planning and Development
and
David Reginato
Senior Manager Drainage Service Scheme Catchment Planning & Engineering
Baw Baw Shire Council

Dear Chris, Luke and David

Flood constraints on future development in Longwarry

I am writing to you on behalf of the community/ landowner representatives on the Koo Wee Rup and Longwarry Flood Protection District Advisory Committee. As you would be aware, the Committee is a long-running, representative, ratepayer-based forum made up of local residents and interest groups, Melbourne Water and local councils which was established and continues to be supported by Melbourne Water. It has been independently facilitated in its current format since 2013.

The Committee toured part of the Flood Protection District, in conjunction with our last meeting in March, to review and discuss examples of successes and challenges in addressing drainage issues. As part of this tour, we visited the Martin Road Drain adjacent to residential development in Longwarry and learned first-hand of some of the challenges relating to drainage in the area. Our discussion on-site was informed by Angela Farnell from Council and officers of Melbourne Water led by Paul Rees and resulted in a desire by the community/ landowner members of the Committee to advocate for further collaboration between the agencies to address these issues. That is the purpose of this letter.

The issues

The Martin Road Drain is a small, shallow drain that existed well before houses were built adjacent to it. Work to increase the capacity of the drain simply causes collapse of the bank at the back of properties. Melbourne Water contractors have done what they can to ensure the end of the drain feeds effectively into the wider drainage system, but the fall is minimal (ie the land is very flat).

This is an example of the pressure on drainage assets in Longwarry that were never designed for the current flows. Maintenance can only be a band-aid treatment which, by definition, does not address the root causes but only manages the symptoms with limited success.

Melbourne Water has a binding referrals authority only where there is a zone or overlay in the planning scheme that relates to flooding/ inundation. Currently the mapped flood zone extent and the existing flood overlays do not align in Longwarry.

The cumulative impacts of multiple developments need to be considered in the assessment of individual development applications. Currently, there is no overall strategic assessment and plan for future development in and around Longwarry that can provide a robust and transparent context within which to consider individual applications.

It is understood that Baw Baw Shire Council has developed a draft Stormwater Drainage Strategy which could provide a workable engineering solution for new development in Longwarry, but that Melbourne Water has previously objected to a rezoning of parts of Longwarry for development in the absence of details including funding mechanisms and how the critical drainage works would be sequenced to support the expansion of zones for development.

Based on the existing flood risk, there are questions about how much or whether further development is even possible in Longwarry. The Committee has been informed that updated flood modelling, due December 2026, is required before these issues can be properly addressed.

The way forward

We, the community/ landowner Committee members, strongly recommend that:

- a) in the short term, Council and Melbourne Water investigate and implement drainage upgrades to support the existing level of development in Longwarry, and
- b) in the longer term, both agencies continue the work required:
 - to understand whether further development, including suitably upgraded drainage, is possible in Longwarry, and
 - to ensure that the planning scheme zones and overlays accurately reflect up to date flood modelling.

We would be happy to discuss this matter further. The best point of contact for more information and/or to arrange a discussion would be Paul Rees, Manager - Peninsula and Westernport at Melbourne Water (Paul.Rees@melbournewater.com.au) whose team provides technical and administrative support to the Committee.

Yours sincerely



Bruce Turner
Independent Chair

on behalf of:

Susan Anderson, Ian Anderson, Matthew Coleman, Con Raffa, Frank Rovers, Ian Nicholson, Kate Yeowart.

More details about the Advisory Committee can be found at:

<https://www.melbournewater.com.au/about/what-we-do/our-customers/koo-wee-rup-longwarry-flood-protection-district>