

Preston Reservoir

Tree Works & Landscape Master Plan

May 2014

Project Background & Update

In early 2013, Melbourne Water undertook community consultation regarding the development of a landscape master plan for the whole of Preston Reservoir complex. This consultation included the creation of a project web page, issuing of media releases and community bulletins, discussions held with Council staff and residents and the hosting of an onsite information day.

One of the key objectives of developing the landscape master plan was to provide direction for the replacement of the Cypress trees currently lining High Street. These trees are declining in health, with the eastern row recommended for removal by an arborist (tree specialist) prior to 2017.

In October 2013, Darebin City Council approved plans to remove and replace the Cypress trees along the east of High Street with Black Sheoak (*Allocasuarina littoralis*). Support for this tree species was shown strongly in the community consultation. The landscape plan was then finalised by Melbourne Water.

Heritage Listing

In November 2013, Melbourne Water received confirmation from Heritage Victoria (the independent statutory authority and Victoria's main decision-making body on non-Indigenous cultural heritage issues) that the Yan Yean Water Supply System was added to the Victorian Heritage Register under the provisions of the Heritage Act 1995.

Preston Reservoir No: 1, 2 and 3 (i.e. east and west of High Street) are part of the Yan Yean Water Supply System and the Heritage Council of Victoria is Melbourne Water's key stakeholder in the use and development of this 'heritage place'.

What does this mean for the project?

Given the Cypress trees at the Preston Reservoir site are now heritage listed, Melbourne Water is now required to apply to Heritage Victoria for a heritage permit. Accordingly, Melbourne Water has recently been in discussions with Heritage Victoria to explore other tree species.

The existing landscape plan, previously approved by Darebin Council, indicates Black Sheoak (*Allocasuarina littoralis*) as the replacement species for the High Street frontage, however this is now subject to the heritage permit lodged with Heritage Victoria. If you would like to provide your comments on the proposed trees to replace the Cypress trees,

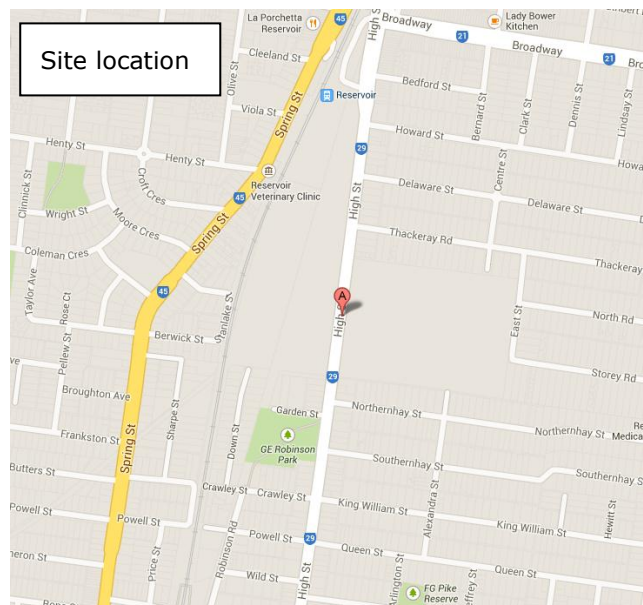
please email: preston.reservoir@melbournewater.com.au. Alternatively, please feel free to call on the number provided below.

What's happening and when?

Melbourne Water will continue consultation with Heritage Victoria regarding tree removal and replacement plans. As part of this approval process the permit application has been advertised, with public submissions accepted until Tuesday 3 June 2014. Details regarding the application can be found at www.heritage.vic.gov.au.

Pending approvals, Melbourne Water plans to commence works to remove the eastern row of trees along High Street. After a seven year monitoring program and arboricultural (tree specialist) advice indicating structural and health problems, these works are planned to occur within the next three months. Melbourne Water believes the trees must be removed in this short timeframe to ensure the risks to public safety and operating assets are minimised.

Melbourne Water will provide updates regarding the timing of works in due course.



Call Charlotte Blakey on 9679 7083 for information about this project. Call Melbourne Water on 131 722 or visit melbournewater.com.au for general information about other projects to enhance life and liveability.