

Stormwater Management Strategy

Frequently asked questions June 2024

Why are we developing a Stormwater Management Strategy?

The Stormwater Management Strategy (Strategy) will help manage and reduce flood risk to people, property, infrastructure, and the environment.

We're committed to managing our city's infrastructure efficiently and sustainably – to meet the needs and expectations of our growing community.

What will it include?

The Strategy will comprise a two-part technical document including:

1. Stormwater Management Strategy Policy: a framework detailing the methodology and criteria for how we prioritise drainage capital works projects.
2. Future Works Plan: a prioritised list of future capital works projects within the municipality.

It will also consider climate change factors.

Who is preparing the Strategy?

We appointed an external consultant to help us develop the Strategy.

It will be informed by a range of Council endorsed documents, existing data and customer requests, flood mapping information and internal stakeholder feedback.

What categories of capital works projects will it consider?

The Strategy will focus on flood mitigation projects and consider:

- asset renewal
- asset upgrades
- drainage network expansion
- new assets, including retarding basins, detention systems and other innovative solutions
- water sensitive urban design.



To speak to someone in your preferred language, please call 9840 9355.

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برای اینکه بتوانید به زبان مورد ترجیح خودتان با شخصی صحبت کنید، لطفاً با شماره 9840 9355 تماس بگیرید.

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How will it benefit the Manningham community?

The Strategy will help us identify, manage and reduce flood risk across the municipality.

How will we engage the community?

Community engagement will be undertaken as part of the Capital Works Program.

It will be managed as individual works are being planned.

When will it be completed?

The draft Policy will be considered for adoption by Council in August 2024. We hope to complete the Strategy in late 2024.

What is stormwater?

Stormwater is runoff from urban areas. It occurs when rainwater runs off hard surfaces, such as roofs and roads, into drains.

Why does flooding occur?

Large cities like Melbourne will always experience some flooding – it's an inevitable part of our weather cycle. Flooding can involve riverine or flash flooding.

Floods are unavoidable natural occurrences and occur when the drainage system's capacity is exceeded, resulting in uncontrolled overland flows. This can also include blockages to the drain.

Rainfall is the most important factor in creating a flood, but there are many other contributing factors.

Some rainfall is captured by soil and vegetation. The remainder enters drainage pipes or travels as overland flow to waterways.

The amount of rainwater that reaches the waterways depends on the characteristics of the catchment – particularly its size, shape and land use.

Standards for land development changed in the 1980s. This is when the concept of providing opportunity for overland flows to run along natural valleys, roads and through open space was introduced.

Most of Manningham was developed before this time. Consequently, there are many instances where overland flow paths run through private properties.

What is riverine flooding?

Riverine flooding is typically associated with larger catchments where watercourse flow levels can rise over days before reaching the peak level.

There is usually advance warning of riverine flooding. Rivers and creeks often have flows of water at most times of the year.

Melbourne Water is generally responsible for managing flooding in catchments greater than 60 hectares in area, which includes riverine and creek flooding.

What is flash flooding?

Flash flooding is typically associated with smaller catchments where the peak flow depth can be reached in less than an hour from the start of the storm.

Overland flow paths associated with flash flooding are typically dry when no rain occurs.

What drainage assets are we responsible for?

We oversee an extensive network of underground drains that reduce stormwater run-off impacts on property, footpaths and roads.

We manage and maintain the public stormwater network system, including:

- pipes
- pits and pit lids
- open drains
- culverts (enclosed drains under roads),
- retarding basins
- detention systems.

We also own and maintain some water quality treatments, such as gross pollutant traps, sedimentation ponds, wetlands and public raingardens.

We aim to remove rubbish and pollutants before stormwater discharges into natural waterways. Some of these treatments are owned and operated by Melbourne Water.

What drainage assets aren't we responsible for?

We do not manage or maintain plumbing and drainage internally to residential properties.

We also aren't responsible for private vehicle crossing culverts and public drains vested in VicRoads or Melbourne Water.

What other actions are you taking to address flooding?

Manningham Flood Mapping Project

We've partnered with Melbourne Water to undertake flood mapping for Manningham, to better understand flood risk. This work will assist us by:

- improved understanding of the frequency, severity and location of flood risks within catchments,
- allowing us to better plan and prioritise mitigation activities,
- helping to plan for future development,
- building community awareness of flood risk; and
- informing emergency management planning.

Integrated Water Management Strategy

The Flood Mapping Project will help inform the development of an Integrated Water Management (IWM) Strategy, which will help identify opportunities to:

- reduce reliance on potable water
- consider alternative water sources
- contribute to planning for a resilient and liveable Manningham.

The IWM Strategy will guide water related action to address emerging challenges, relating to population growth, development pressure and climate change.

For more information on our flooding and stormwater management initiatives, visit yoursay.manningham.vic.gov.au/flood-and-water-management