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Protecting Melbourne's Water Supply



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**M4I – Punt Road Water Main
Replacement Project**





Melbourne Water and our commitment to the community

At Melbourne Water, we believe the **trust** of the community is paramount to every project we undertake. Owned by the Victorian Government, Melbourne Water aims to be a leader in the **management** of water, waterways, sewerage and drainage systems.

We own and manage more than 1000 kilometres of water supply mains across Melbourne.

As part of our **commitment** to providing the highest level of service across our entire water supply system, Melbourne Water regularly checks the underground water mains to make sure they are maintained and replaced as required.

The M41 – Punt Road Water Main Replacement Project will **protect and improve** water supplies in Melbourne's inner southern and eastern suburbs.

It is a major project and will have an impact on the community. We **value** our position in the community, and always strive to work closely with affected residents, local councils and other bodies when we undertake major works.

This booklet will help you **understand** why we need to replace Water Main 41 which currently runs under Punt Road – one of Melbourne's most significant thoroughfares – and Yarra Park. The booklet also outlines how the project may affect you, and how you can be involved in the planning process.

We will work with the **community** at every step of this critical project.

Replacing the M41 – Punt Road water main

Melbourne's water supply is distributed in a complex and extensive network of underground pipes. Many of these water mains were laid during the early years of the city's development.

The main's history

The M41 water main was originally laid in the late 1880s and runs under Punt Road – one of Melbourne's busiest thoroughfares – and significant parkland nearby.

The original water main was a 36-inch diameter pipe that was laid in 1894 as part of the supply system from Preston Reservoir to St Kilda. Much of the original main was replaced in 1926 with a 42-inch pipe. However, a section of the pipe beneath the Richmond railway station bridge and a short section immediately north of the Yarra River were not replaced.

This main was built to deliver water from the Preston Reservoir to the suburbs of South Yarra, Prahran and St Kilda. Today, the main still takes water from the Preston Reservoir, but it now supplies water to thousands more people in the suburbs it services.

Yarra Park

Yarra Park, managed by the City of Melbourne, covers approximately 34 hectares and provides for leisure and recreational activities of the city's residents and workers.

Yarra Park (north) also provides a parkland setting for the MCG, while Yarra Park (south of the railway) caters for sports including cricket, rugby, and hammer and discus throwing.

The north side of Yarra Park is sloping, open grassed parkland with mature exotic and Australian trees. The parkland is fragmented into predominantly open, irregular shaped lawn areas bordered by a series of straight, tree-lined paths and internal roadways that crisscross the park.



From early in its life, the main has had intermittent problems with leaks. Melbourne Water's engineers and external consultants have investigated the number and frequency of these leaks and agree that the main has reached the end of its useful life and needs to be replaced.

The main also needs more capacity to maintain water pressure and water supply to Melbourne's inner southern and eastern suburbs during times of peak demand.

These paths accommodate the movement of both pedestrians and vehicles of patrons attending major sporting and entertainment events at the MCG and other venues in the Sports & Entertainment Precinct. Up to 5,700 vehicles are sometimes parked here during major events.

On either side of Swan Street the southern part of Yarra Park, including Gosch's Paddock, is a flat area with sporting ovals and fields. Exotic tree-lined paths form the border with Punt Road and Swan Street.

Source: City of Melbourne website

Outline of the project

It is proposed that the new main will be laid under Yarra Park, Gosch's Paddock, Swan Street, Brunton Avenue, Wellington Parade South and the rail lines near the Richmond railway station. Laying a replacement pipe under Punt Road would cause unreasonable disruption to traffic.

Finding the final route will be done in consultation with stakeholders such as the Melbourne City Council, sporting bodies and others to minimise any chance of damage to trees in the park and the park itself, and disruption to transport routes or sporting events.

While the project is planned to begin and be completed during 2003, the exact timing will also be subject to consultation with stakeholders.

The actual works are expected to take about six months. However, it is important to understand that the work will be carried out in a series of short stages to accommodate the requirements of stakeholders, to protect the trees in Yarra Park and to minimise impact on sporting events. This could mean that some sections of the new main are laid during the drier summer months and others during the cooler, wetter winter months.



The new main will be laid in a trench that will vary from two to six metres in depth. Generally a work corridor of about 10 metres will be required to excavate the trench, lay the pipe and to backfill the trench. Reinstatement of grassed and paved areas will begin and be completed as soon as is practical.

The replacement work will involve laying a new main under parts of Yarra Park and Gosch's Paddock, Swan Street, Brunton Avenue and Wellington Parade South. The main will also need to go under the rail lines near the Richmond railway station. This section will be laid by tunnelling the pipe directly underneath these busy transport links.

By using this engineering solution, it is anticipated that there will not be any disruption to rail traffic or road transport. However, there may be some short-term and minor road traffic delays caused by contractors' truck movements.

Melbourne Water is committed to developing an engineering solution that will avoid sensitive areas, overcome inconvenience for park users and meet community approval.

The old main under Punt Road will be left in place once water is being delivered through the new main. The old main will be filled with cement grout to make sure it does not collapse and damage Punt Road at any time in the future.

How stakeholders and the community can be involved

Melbourne Water is committed to working closely with the community on this important project.

Consulting with the community will be done to:

- ensure that the community is fully informed about the project,
- ensure stakeholders, park users and the local community hear about the project from Melbourne Water prior to its commencement,
- provide opportunities for community and user groups to raise and discuss issues with Melbourne Water,
- provide opportunities for community and user groups to have input into the planning of the project,
- ensure that the Melbourne City Council and sporting organisations are fully informed and able to have an input into the project's planning and timing,
- identify and discuss known issues and those that may emerge during the works.

To carry out this project, Melbourne Water needs to consult with a large number of stakeholders. Many of these are mentioned in this booklet, while others include the City of Yarra, Australian Cricket Board and Australian Football League, retail water companies, Air Ambulance Services, East Melbourne Residents Association, Richmond Football/Cricket Ground, Melbourne and Olympic Parks Trust, VicTrack, Telstra and Powernet, VicRoads, Yarra Trams and Connex.

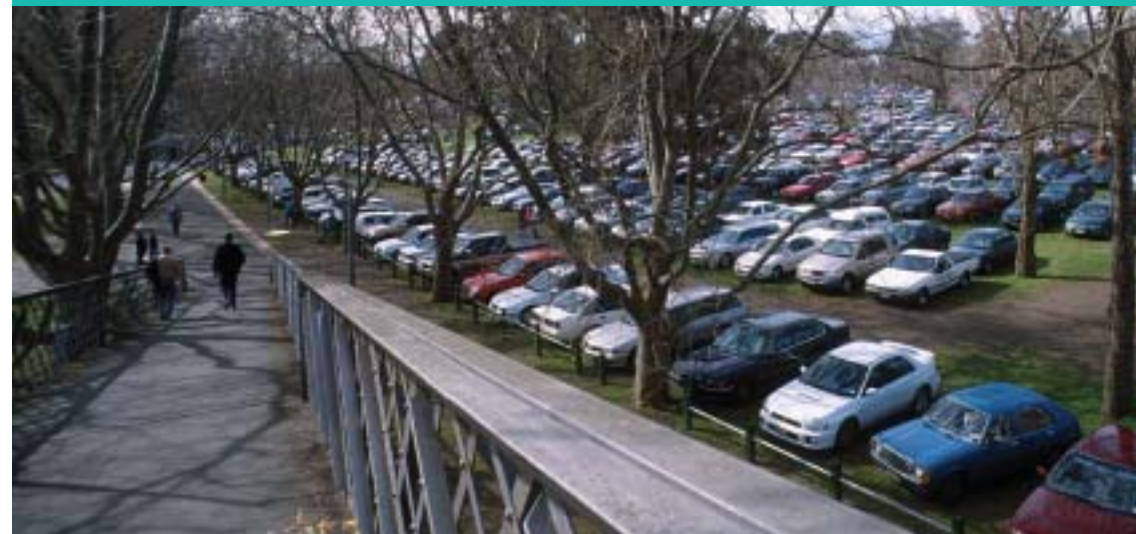


Friends of the Elms

Elms have been a feature of Melbourne's parks, gardens and streets since they were introduced in the 19th century. Elms provide glorious foliage in spring, welcome shade in summer, golden leaves in autumn and a complex of tracery of branches in winter.

The Friends of the Elms Inc., is a voluntary not-for-profit organisation that was founded in 1990 to raise awareness of the importance of elms and to fund research into potential threats of pests and disease. *Source: 'Our Elms Need Friends', Friends of the Elms*

The Friends of the Elms will be involved in planning the route and timing for the new water main to make sure the precious and mature elms in the area are not adversely affected by the M41 – Punt Road Water Main Replacement Project.



Uses and users of the area

M41 passes through some of inner Melbourne's finest parkland and close to the city's major sports arenas – the Melbourne Cricket Ground, Olympic Park and Melbourne Park, home of the Australian Tennis Open.

Melbourne Water is committed to involving all interested parties in the project to make sure that their various interests are carefully considered to minimise, where possible, the impacts of the replacement project. The major issues are outlined below.

Protecting the parks and trees

Melbourne City Council owns and manages Melbourne City's parks and most of the new main will be laid under Yarra Park and Gosch's Paddock.

Protecting the trees in the parks is paramount. To achieve this, Melbourne Water will plan the route to avoid any significant or protected trees and work closely with stakeholders such as the Melbourne City Council and the Friends of the Elms to determine the best time to undertake work close to the trees. Several immature saplings might have to be replaced to accommodate the route.

The Melbourne City Council also has placed stringent restrictions on the proximity of excavation work to any trees. Other guidelines cover the movement of heavy construction vehicles, the length of any open trenches, storage of pipes and soil on-site and the location of contractors' compounds.

Heritage Victoria will also require all trees in Yarra Park to be protected, particularly the row of elms along Punt Road and the Canary Island palms near the Jolimont railway station.

Minimising impacts on sporting events and grounds

Melbourne Water will liaise and consult with the MCG, Australian Cricket Board, Tennis Australia and the Melbourne Storm rugby team to make sure the timing of the works in Yarra Park does not clash with any major sporting events.

As part of the main will be laid under the area set aside for car parking at the MCG, every effort will be made to minimise disruption.

Maintaining water supply

Water supplies will be maintained throughout the works and there is not anticipated to be any disruption to water supply because of the works.

Protecting the area's heritage

Gosch's Paddock, the southern area of Yarra Park, was a landfill site in the late 19th century and could contain historic artefacts. Heritage Victoria and Aboriginal Affairs will be consulted when the route for the new main is being planned and will be called to the site immediately if anything of interest is uncovered during trenching.

Maintaining access to the Yarra River City Trail at Hoddle Bridge

Work to replace the M41 water main will need to be done in the area of the Yarra City Trail bike/pedestrian path. Melbourne Water will make sure that every effort is made to minimise disruption to cyclists and pedestrians wanting to use the path and will have signs in place to keep people informed.

