

31 July 2015

Melbourne Water  
PO Box 4342  
Melbourne Vic 3000

**Ask for:** Natalie Walker  
**Phone:** 9932 1096  
**Our Ref:** A2182989

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Draft Flood Management Strategy Port Philip and Westernport**

Hobsons Bay City Council welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the draft Flood Management Strategy Port Phillip and Westernport currently out for consultation.

The draft strategy provides a clear vision, objectives and outcomes for flood management within Melbourne Water's service area. While Council supports the direction of the strategy, there are a number of areas that require further clarification.

Council's responses to the strategy are provided in the attached submission. Should you wish to discuss this submission further, please contact Kathleen McClusky, Manager Strategy and Advocacy on 9932 1004 or email [kmclusky@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](mailto:kmclusky@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,

Natalie Walker  
**Director Strategic Development**

## **Response to the draft Flood Management Strategy Port Phillip and Westernport**

- Council supports the use of both short term and long term targets for the improved management of flood waters. It is noted however, that no baseline has been given. This makes it difficult to determine the magnitude of improvement expected over the life of the strategy. It is recommended that a baseline be provided in addition to the targets.
- It is unclear whether the targets are specific to Melbourne Water or whether it is expected that all agencies involved in flood management are expected to adhere to them. While Council supports increased flood mapping, councils have limited resources. It is recommended that this issue be clarified and that the strategy clearly recognises the rights of local governments to freely manage their own resources in accordance with their responsibilities as judged to be appropriate by the local government.
- Council appreciates that the need to collaborate closely with local councils and other flood and emergency management agencies has been clearly recognised in the strategy. However, there are a number of actions where local councils have been cited as having an unduly high level of responsibility or where shared responsibilities have not been adequately recognised.

While councils have a significant role to play in emergency management, emergencies such as flooding often need to be responded to on a regional scale. Regional and state wide agencies such as (but not limited to) VICSES play a critical role in emergency management.

The draft strategy identifies local councils as having primary responsibility for keeping flood mapping updated in the planning scheme. While local councils have a significant and important role to play in this area, it is noted that overlays can only be updated if they are approved by the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning.

The responsibility for identifying where the lack of clarity in relation to the roles and responsibilities of different agencies impacts on flood management should be shared. A consistent approach to managing flood risk should be taken across the region. These shared responsibilities need to be more adequately recognised within the strategy.

- Council is pleased to see both integrated water management opportunities and climate change impacts recognised within the strategy. Council would like to see future catchment and coastal mapping consider the impacts of both climate change and urban growth and densification.