

Frequently Asked Questions

Williamstown Main Sewer Rehabilitation Project

Project overview

What is the Williamstown Main Sewer Rehabilitation Project?

The Williamstown Main Sewer Rehabilitation Project will involve upgrading the existing 4.4km sewer between Pasco Street, Williamstown and Scienceworks in Spotswood to ensure it continues to provide the Williamstown, Newport and Spotswood communities with a reliable sewerage service for the next 50 years.

What will the works involve?

Works will involve:

- Relining the existing Williamstown Main Sewer between Pasco Street, Williamstown and Scienceworks, Spotswood using trenchless technology.
- Rehabilitating the associated manholes along the alignment.
- Installing bypass pumping arrangements to ensure relining works can be carried out safely while there are no flows in the pipe.

Why is the project needed?

Recent inspections of the existing 100 year old Williamstown Main Sewer have revealed that the sewer is experiencing significant deterioration and groundwater infiltration along its entire length. Failure to upgrade the sewer could result in sections of the sewer collapsing, disrupting local sewerage services.

What is the timing of the works?

Construction is planned to start in early 2017 and is expected to take approximately 18 months to complete.

Have you taken into consideration the timing of the works as summer is a busy period?

We understand that the Williamstown, Newport and Spotswood areas are busy during the summer months due to their close proximity to Port Phillip Bay. We

will take this into consideration when planning the works, along with planned events.

Where will the works be carried out?

The Williamstown Main Sewer is a 4.4km pipe that runs between Pasco Street, Williamstown and Scienceworks in Spotswood.

Majority of the rehabilitation works will take place around the existing manholes which are located along the following streets:

- Pasco Street, between Railway Place and Nelson Place.
- Nelson Place, between Pasco Street and Ferguson Street.
- Ferguson Street, between Nelson Place and James Street.
- James Street, between Ferguson Street and Stevedore Street.
- Stevedore Street, between James Street and Dover Road.
- Dover Road, between Stevedore Street and Yarra Street.
- Yarra Street, between Dover Road and Douglas Parade.
- Douglas Parade, between Yarra Street and Craig Street (Scienceworks).

We will start the works at Pasco Street and move progressively north along the alignment until we reach the end of the sewer which is located near Scienceworks.

We will look at opportunities to have multiple crews working on the sewer at one time so we can complete the works as quickly and efficiently as possible.

What are the benefits of the project?

On completion of the works, the project will have the following benefits:

- Continue to provide the Williamstown, Newport and Spotswood communities with a reliable sewerage service.
- Improve public health and the environment by eliminating the risk of dry weather sewage spills due to the poor condition of the sewer pipe.
- Improve the operation of the sewer, minimising blockages and odour.
- Extend the life of the Williamstown Main Sewer by 50 years.

What type of condition is the existing sewer in? Does it pose a risk to public health or the environment?

As the asset manager for the Williamstown Main Sewer, Melbourne Water is responsible for monitoring the condition of sewer through regular inspections and monitoring.

Recent CCTV inspections of the sewer have shown that it requires upgrade works to ensure it continues to operate within Melbourne Water's service standards.

Due to Melbourne Water's proactive asset management approach, the current condition of the sewer does not pose a risk to public health or the environment.

If groundwater is infiltrating the pipe, does this mean sewage is leaking out?

Recent inspections of the sewer have shown that groundwater is infiltrating the sewer pipe. Groundwater infiltration does not mean sewage is leaking out of the pipe as groundwater puts pressure on the outside of the pipe, keeping the sewage inside the pipe. The sewer is also designed to ensure sewage is running at a constant rate through the pipe which minimises the risks of sewage leaking out as it is not sitting still.

Rehabilitation works

What will sewer relining involve?

We will be using two methods of sewer relining to upgrade the existing sewer. Relining is a trenchless method of repairing damaged sewer pipes that minimises impacts on the local community as it means we do not need to dig up the pipe to repair it.

The first method of relining involves dropping a machine into an existing manhole to coat the inside of the sewer pipe with a PVC liner. The machine moves from manhole to manhole unwinding the liner and sticking it to the walls of the existing sewer. Once complete, grout is used to fill any gaps. This method will be used along the circular sections of the pipe along Pasco Street between Railway Place and Nelson Place.

The second method of relining involves accessing an existing upstream manhole and running a liner from this manhole to one located downstream. The liner is then expanded to match the size of the sewer pipe and cured using UV light. The liner, once hardened, will strengthen the sewer, allowing it to provide many more years of service. This method will be used along the ovoid sections of the pipe along Nelson Place, Ferguson Street, James Street, Dover Road and Douglas Parade.

What will manhole rehabilitation works involve?

Manhole rehabilitation works will involve removing the existing ladders and associated items within the manhole, coating the inside of the manholes with a protective coating, and replacing the ladders. Like the sewer relining works, this

will strengthen the manholes, allowing them to provide many more years of service.

Bypass pumping

What is bypass pumping?

Bypass pumping involves connecting a temporary pipe to an upstream manhole and diverting the flows to another manhole located further downstream. This leaves a section of the sewer with no flows running through it, making it safe to complete rehabilitation works. It is a common technique used when completing relining works as it provides safe access to the sewer and allows local sewerage services to keep operating at all times.

What does bypass pumping involve?

Bypass pumping will be carried out in sections and will involve running temporary pipes above and below ground. We will place fencing around any above ground pipes to ensure the safety of the community.

Bypass pumping will be carried out 24 hours a day seven days a week to support the relining works. There will be some noise and odour associated with the bypass pumping as generators are used to operate the pumps. An Environmental Management Plan will be developed to assist us in managing noise and odour impacts.

Where will bypass pumping take place?

Bypass pumping will be used when we start relining the ovoid sections of the sewer between Nelson Place and Scienceworks. We will run pipes both above and below ground.

The location of the bypass pumping equipment will be determined closer to the start of the works. We will keep the local community informed about the location of this equipment.

Will the bypass pumping be noisy?

The bypass pumping system will operate 24 hours a day seven days a week. There will be some noise associated with this activity as generators will be used to power the pumps. We will attempt to locate generators away from properties, where possible.

We will also complete this activity in sections to minimise impacts on the local community.

Is there any risk of sewage leaking out of the bypass pumps?

We do not anticipate any sewage spills from our bypass pumping activities. However, to ensure we are proactively managing any potential risks we will place environmental controls around our bypass pumping equipment.

Managing impacts

Will there be traffic and access impacts?

Majority of the works will involve accessing the existing manholes which are located in public areas like roads, median strips and reserves.

To ensure the safety of our workers and the community there will be some changes to traffic, access and parking. We will develop a traffic management plan in consultation with Council to ensure the safe flow of traffic around our work areas. We will provide advance notification about traffic, access and parking impacts prior to starting work in each location.

Will there be odour from the rehabilitation works and bypass pumping?

Working on an operational sewer means there will be some odour associated with the works. An Environmental Management Plan will be developed to assist in managing odour during the works.

Will there be impacts to parking?

As many of the manholes we need to access are located in residential streets, we will need to temporarily occupy on-street car parking spaces in some locations. We will provide local residents with advance notification of traffic and parking impacts so you can make alternative arrangements.

Do you need to remove any trees?

At this stage, it is highly unlikely we will need to remove trees as part of the works. However, we may need to undertake some trimming or alterations where trees are located in close proximity to the existing manholes.

We will be undertaking an assessment of the area to determine if there will be any impacts to trees or vegetation along the project alignment. We will inform local residents of any impact to trees or vegetation prior to starting works in an area.

How long will the works take at each manhole location?

Works at each manhole will take approximately three to four weeks to complete and will be carried out around the clock.

There may be times when works may take longer than planned due to weather or the location of underground services. We will notify affected residents of any significant changes to the timing of the works via letters or door knocks.

Will there be noise?

The sewer relining works will be carried out around the clock and there will be noise associated with these works. This includes movement of machinery and generators used to power equipment and bypass sewer pumps.

We will work closely with the local community to minimise these impacts as much as practicable.

Will there be any impacts to my property?

Majority of the works will take place around existing manholes which are located in public areas like roads, median strips and reserves. At this stage, we do not anticipate any impacts to private property as a result of our works.

Where can I get more information?

For more information about the project, please call 1800 813 242, email williamstownsewer@melbournewater.com.au or visit melbournewater.com.au/williamstownsewer