

GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Flooding in the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge

Introduction

A large portion of the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge is former swamp land (the Carrum Carrum Swamp). Due to this, the area is low lying and can be slow to drain.

Roads and properties are often subjected to overland flow of water during and after storm events.

In February 2011, the Bangholme area was severely impacted by a flooding event. This adversely impacted local residents, their properties and their businesses.

The City of Greater Dandenong recognises that flooding may be a major concern to residents and is committed to identifying flood improvements that are cost effective and provide the best social and environmental outcomes.

It is important to note that although significant drainage improvement works have been carried out in the area since 2011, the green wedge will always be low lying (flat), drain poorly and be vulnerable to flooding.

Water objectives and actions

The key challenges facing the Green Wedge are:

- managing the risk of flood
- managing drainage infrastructure such as drains and pipes.

Therefore, a number of objectives were created for Council and other agencies to aim for over the next few years. These include to:

- improve flood and inundation management
- improve water quality within and downstream of the Green Wedge
- reinstate and reconnect natural waterways
- enhance the role of the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge as a water management asset.

Responsibilities

Both Council and Melbourne Water are key to the management of water in the Green Wedge.

Council is responsible for managing areas smaller than 60 hectares in size, with Melbourne Water having clear obligations under the *Water Industry Act, 1994* to provide for a 'safe and effective system for dealing with storm runoff, a reduced risk of flooding in priority areas and the prevention of inappropriate development in flood-prone areas.

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Recent improvement works in the Green Wedge

Clean out works

Following the 2011 flooding, Melbourne Water and the City of Greater Dandenong have undertaken significant clean-outworks in drains in the Green Wedge to improve the movement of water through the system.

It is important to reiterate that even with these clean out works, the movement of water through the system may still be very slow and could still take weeks or months to drain.

Increased capacity

Melbourne Water has also carried out works to both Smythes Drain and Springs Drain to improve their carrying capacity and new pipes have been constructed under Soden Road and Springvale Road to further reduce flood risk.

Smythes Drain is also no longer connected to Mordialloc Creek which reduces the amount of floodwater that will now enter the area.

Council has also constructed other drains to provide for additional storage and better movement of excess water through the area.

Early flood warning system

Council has installed a flood-warning system at the Willow Lodge Retirement Village, off the Frankston-Dandenong Highway. Whilst the whole Green Wedge area is vulnerable to flooding, the reason the flood warning system was put here (as opposed to somewhere else) is due to the high resident population in the immediate area.

The system works by sending flood warning information to a list of pre-arranged recipients

allowing Council to respond quickly to flood events through the evacuation of high risk areas.

Flood mapping

Council has now partnered with Melbourne Water to undertake flood modelling within the Bangholme Lowlands Catchment (the area defined as the Bangholme Lowlands Precinct of the Green Wedge).

The project should be completed by June 2016 and will give Council and Melbourne Water a clear picture of the areas where flooding is most likely to occur and better inform planning decisions for new use and development proposals in the area.



Area subject to current flood mapping (Bangholme Lowlands Precinct)

Private drain ownership

Not all drains are in Council or Melbourne Water control, and residents and owners in the Green Wedge also have responsibilities regarding private drains and their maintenance. These responsibilities are covered by a 'Local Law'.

The relevant Greater Dandenong local law is the 'Municipal Amenity Local Law' which purpose is intended to, amongst other things:

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- prevent drains on private land from becoming blocked or unsightly
- regulate the discharge of stormwater from private property.

An owner or occupier of land **must not**:

- keep or allow a privately maintained drain on land to be in a condition which is unsightly or restricts the flow of water through the drain
- allow stormwater collection, drainage or discharge systems to fall into a state of disrepair
- discharge stormwater by any means other than a point of discharge approved by Council.

If you have any queries regarding the above, please contact Council's Local Laws Team or Council's Asset Planning Team on 8571 1000.

Eastern Treatment Plant (ETP)

The ETP was opened in 1975 to serve Melbourne's growing population.

Located on the corner of Thompsons Road and EastLink in Bangholme, and operated by Melbourne Water, the site covers approximately 1,100 ha and treats approximately 330 million litres of sewage a day which represents approximately 40% of Melbourne's sewage.

As a result, the ETP is considered to be of state significance and is protected by the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme and Environment Protection Agency (EPA) guidance from the development of any inappropriate uses such as some residential uses.

An Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO3) applies over the ETP and acts as a buffer around the site. This overlay is in place to protect the plant's operations, adjacent properties (due to related odour issues) and allow for future expansion of the ETP.

Further information

Council is currently seeking expressions of interest from land owners in the Green Wedge regarding drainage improvement works and/or opportunities to use alternative water sources for irrigation.

If you are interested in either of these projects, please contact Council's Asset Planning Team on 8571 1000 or email council@cgd.vic.gov.au.



Eastern Treatment Plant

Source: <http://sustainabilitymatters.net.au/>