

Project news

October 2026



South Melbourne Sewer Upgrade - Stage 2

We're installing a new sewer main in South Melbourne and Southbank as part of the South Melbourne Sewer Upgrade.

About the South Melbourne Sewer Upgrade - Stage 2

This project will involve installing a new underground sewer pipe and maintenance holes running from the corner of Stead Street and Palmerston Crescent, South Melbourne and heading north along Tope Street and ending near the corner of Clark Street and City Road, Southbank. Works will include a sewage pump station on Market Street, South Melbourne.

What we're doing

We've been working with our delivery partner, Beca Fulton Hogan Interflow (BFHI) on investigative works for the project since November 2025. You may have seen us working within the proposed work area.

Early investigation works help us design the best outcome to provide essential services for our customers, community and environment while complying with regulations.

What next?

Service Relocation Works

Before we start construction work we'll have to relocate some underground and overhead services like power, gas, water, sewer and telecommunications assets. This will ensure we have enough room for a new sewer.

Tree removal and pruning will be required for service relocation and eventual construction of the new sewer. We understand the value trees provide to the local environment and community, and we are committed to minimising vegetation removal wherever possible. As part of this commitment, we will investigate opportunities for a planting offset and including replacement planting and potential improvements to surrounding landscaped areas. We will work with relevant stakeholders to identify suitable locations and species, with the aim of providing a positive and lasting environmental outcome.

Historical Finds

Unearthing Everyday Life in South Melbourne

During our investigation works, we unearthed multiple historic artefacts. The artefacts shown below highlight the objects people used as part of everyday life in the nineteenth century. They include spoons, bottles and salt canisters. These items can be viewed at the Community Hub.

Did you know?

Known in the nineteenth century as Emerald Hill, South Melbourne grew alongside the expanding city of Melbourne, becoming a busy suburb shaped by industry, commerce and everyday domestic life.



"Lyon Bros Makers" Bottle

Dark green glass bottle, c. 1886 - 1960



Mappin & Webb Electroplated Teaspoon

Electroplated nickel silver teaspoon, c. 1870's - 1880's



Salt Canister Fragment

Embossed cream-glazed canister fragment, c. 1880's



Find out more

Scan the QR code or visit southeastwater.com.au/southmel2 to find out more info about this project.



Project timeline

Early 2024

Stage 1 works complete

Late 2025

Investigation works - late 2026 (current)

- Site investigations
- Technical and engineering assessments

Late 2026

Service relocations start

- Mobilisation and commencement of service relocations (power, gas)
- Further engineering investigations

Mid 2027

Construction begins

We're still planning the staging of works. We'll keep you updated

Early 2030

construction complete and reinstatement

Service relocation works are scheduled to start in late October and will take until mid 2027 to complete. This timeline may change pending relevant approvals for works and weather.

We'll do our best to keep impacts to a minimum, however these are some things you might notice while we work:

- Temporary loss of parking
- Traffic detours
- Machinery on site
- More trucks on the streets around you
- Noise from machinery, saw cutting and hammering

Our team will be around during working hours to make sure people, bikes and cars can move around safely.

When we're working

Our standard working hours will be Monday to Friday between 7am and 5pm and Saturday 7am to 5pm, weather permitting.

We anticipate some work will need to be completed at night for permit and safety reasons. We'll let local businesses, residents and the community know in advance.

Need more information?

To receive the latest updates on this project please scan the QR code and click follow to subscribe.



Visit the new South Melbourne Sewer Upgrade page on Engage South East Water. We'll be updating this page with project news and opportunities to engage. You can subscribe to get updates about the project straight to your inbox, just click the follow button to subscribe.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact:

BFHI

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South East Water Project Team

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Phone: 1800 728 256

Community Hub Opening Hours

92 Tope Street, South Melbourne

Monday: 9am - 1pm

Wednesday: 9am - 1pm

Friday: 9am - 1pm



How to get in touch

Report a leak or check interruptions
mysupport.southeastwater.com.au/LIVE

Faults and emergencies 13 28 12 (24hrs)

Account enquiries 13 18 51
(8am – 6pm, Mon – Fri)

TTY users 13 36 77 (ask for 13 18 51)

Interpreter service

 Languages other than English
03 9280 0779

Jika Anda membutuhkan seorang juru bahasa, telepon 03 9280 0779

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