



Banyule  
CITY COUNCIL

# Drainage Policy

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March 1998

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# Part A - Drainage Context

## Introduction

Drainage is a natural feature of our environment. It existed initially as a network of rivers and streams. This network has been manipulated in the process of human settlement into the stormwater drainage system as we know it today.

Newly amalgamated Councils have inherited stormwater drainage networks that are often of inadequate capacity, old, substandard and requiring urgent and costly repairs. Banyule City Council is no exception. Its task is to improve and maintain this asset to a standard accepted by the community.

Banyule's City Plan 1997 - 2000 expresses a commitment to a maintenance program of the stormwater drainage system that will maximise its life, ensure public safety and protect the natural environment. This is reinforced by the Environment Key Strategic Direction in the plan, which states:

*Banyule has many unique features that are highly valued by both residents and visitors. We will protect and enhance the distinctive characteristics of our diverse environment.*

The relevant **key aims and actions** of the plan which have specific relevance to drainage issues can be identified as follows:

- Prepare and regularly review a Municipal Strategic Statement.
- Develop policies and procedures that protect the distinctive natural environment, including animals, plants, waterways and wetlands.
- To maintain roads and drains to a standard which ensures public safety and protects the natural environment.
- Develop construction and maintenance standards for roads and drains to maximise their life.
- Maintain rolling construction and maintenance programs for roads, footpaths and drains.
- Install litter traps and retention systems throughout our drains to reduce waterway pollution.
- Develop the commercial potential of the litter traps for the drainage program.
- Develop policies for infrastructure funding including special rates and charges and asset maintenance.
- Develop and maintain asset inventory systems.

The preparation of a Drainage Strategy is a specific issue to be addressed under Council's City Plan.

### **Background**

The metropolitan Melbourne drainage network has been developed over the past 150 years. Over the latter part of this period there has been a significant increase in the awareness of drainage on the environment. The community's expectations have evolved, giving a much greater priority to environmental issues, as well as requiring a highly efficient drainage system. These two expectations may sometimes be in conflict, however by developing a strategic approach and with imaginative design and cooperation between environmentalists and drainage managers, these requirements can be fulfilled.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

The division of responsibilities for the design and construction of the drainage network between Melbourne Water and local government has in the past resulted in a network which is fragmented and lacking strategic perspective. The responsibility of Melbourne Water was to provide a drainage collector system for large catchments with Councils building local networks according to their own standards. Drains were designed and built with only one objective - to collect water from an area and unload it into a drainage collector system. Differing council standards across municipal boundaries have resulted in a drainage network which is out of balance. Often a problem solved in one place has created problems elsewhere.

Local government and State Authority reforms and associated regulations have recently created conditions that will now make the management of assets and resources more efficient, strategically oriented and technically sound. The role of Councils has changed, with a strong emphasis on strategic planning. This will help to develop policies which, while focussed on the needs of local communities, will also attempt to address the needs and expectations of all Victorians.

This Council has adopted a positive and innovative approach in relation to drainage and the environment. As reflected in the City Plan 1997 - 2000, Council recognises that the environment is of key importance and also acknowledges that drainage is one of the key elements determining the quality of the environment.

### **Information Needs**

A preliminary assessment of Banyule's drainage system has been conducted and a detailed audit will be undertaken in the future. The existing drainage system needs further investigation to identify key issues.

The investigation process will cover the following aspects of drainage:

- Capacity
- Drainage condition
- Updating drainage records.

## **Drainage Policy**

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A joint Urban Drainage Research Program with Victoria University is currently under way. The results of this research will provide Council with detailed analysis of run-off coefficient variations for different types of catchments located within Banyule. This information will assist in formulating future policies, guidelines and standards for drainage design.

In addition, the municipality's flood prone areas have been designated and clearly mapped to comply with the new Victoria Building Regulations.

## **Policy and Legislative Context**

When determining its Drainage Policy, Council must look at external regulations and strategies as well as internal issues. Every level of government has produced documents containing information which are important to policy development. Documents have also been prepared by the Environment Protection Authority, YarraCare and Melbourne Water. There are also the conservation strategies of the former municipalities of Eltham, Diamond Valley and Heidelberg. All will provide a context and legislative and technical boundaries for the Drainage Policy.

## **Commonwealth and State Government Legislation**

Commonwealth and State Government Acts and associated regulations provide the legislative context for a number of matters associated with drainage and often directly regulate the activities of authorities and local government and influence detailed policy.

The most important of these documents are:

**Environment Protection Act 1970** - This is the most important document relating to environment protection in Victoria.

The Act establishes:

- State environment protection policy.
- Approvals and appeals mechanisms associated with waste control.

The relevant purposes of the Act are:

- To protect air and water through the regulation of levels of emissions and discharges.
- To limit landfill levels.
- To regulate the transport of the waste materials.

**Water Act 1981 (Amended in 1995)** - regulates management of water resources, responsibilities, ownership of riparian land, floodway management, allocation of water, etc.

## Drainage Policy

The Act has been introduced to achieve the following goals:

- To provide integrated management of all elements of water cycle.
- To promote orderly and efficient use of water resources.
- To properly conserve those resources
- To ensure community involvement in all aspects of the management of the resource.
- To provide for the protection of catchment condition.

**Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994** - sets up the framework for the integrated management and protection of catchments.

The relevant purposes of the Act are:

- To encourage community participation in catchment management.
- To regulate extractive activities.

**The Planning and Environment (Development Contributions) Act 1995 (Amendment to the PEA 1985) and Guidelines for development contributions** - The Guidelines outline the processes associated with the infrastructure development, including drainage contributions.

The significant elements of this document are:

- Processes for setting up development contribution plans.
- Policy decisions relating to the provision of infrastructure.
- Components of development contribution systems.
- Detailed examples of implementation of development contribution plans.

## **State and Regional Policies**

Within the context of Commonwealth and State legislation, State and regional authorities have developed a number of policies and strategies related to drainage. These policies have been developed by the EPA, Melbourne Water, YarraCare and the Port Phillip Catchment and Land Protection Board (CALP) and look at the particular catchments. Banyule is covered by several of these policies and strategies which set the standards and requirements for catchment management.

The documents relevant to Banyule are:

**State Environment Protection Policy No W-29 (1984)** sets the objectives and indicators required for the protection of the Yarra River and tributaries and the methods and levels of protection to be accorded to the environment.

## **Drainage Policy**

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The main features of the policy are:

- Beneficial uses of the environment.
- Quality objectives that must be achieved in the process of use of the environment.
- The division of the subject area into sections according to use requirements.

**Waterway Concept Plans** for Middle Yarra, Lower Plenty River and Darebin Creek developed by Parks Victoria, coordinate the environmental and recreational planning and development of parklands along those waterways.

The Concept plans address the following issues:

- River courses - Protection of drainage and flood plain function and flora and fauna along the rivers.
- Wetlands - Rehabilitation and conservation of wetlands.
- Bushlands - Conservation of riparian bushland.
- Open space - Encouraging the coordinated development of open spaces and recreational facilities.
- Trail network - Establishment of a network of trails linking various recreational areas and facilities.

**State Environment Protection Authority Policy No 471-(1995) "Waters of Yarra Catchment"** (Draft) - This is the draft of the revision of SEPP No. W29 which addresses shortcomings of that policy. There is a clear indication from bodies such as YarraCare that the environmental quality of the Yarra River and its tributaries is poorer than the community desires. Therefore this draft revises the policy objectives to meet community expectations. This policy will also require a Yarra Catchment Strategy will be developed.

**Yarra Catchment Strategy 1996 (Draft)** - This strategy has been drafted by the YarraCare Working Group and identifies issues related to the protection of the Yarra River catchment. The strategy proposes a variety of programs which should be undertaken by governments, water authorities, industry and individuals to help to achieve goals formulated in the State Environment Protection Policy No 471 (1995).

The strategy lists the following values of the catchment to be protected:

- water quality;
- healthy living;
- biodiversity;
- sustainable production; and
- tourism.

The strategy also sets the budget, the tasks, and the time frame and nominates responsible authorities to implement its objectives.

**Port Phillip Bay (1996) Draft** - "Regional Catchment Strategy" sets clear and coordinated responsibilities for the integrated management of five major catchments.

## **Drainage Policy**

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The objectives of this document are:

- To maintain and improve the quality of water within the five catchments.
- To maintain the diversity of natural ecosystems.
- To achieve sustainable use of the catchments.
- To provide quality of living, recreation and tourism.
- To coordinate and monitor all catchment protection activities.

These policies and plans provide guidance for local government and other organisations in their activities related to drainage and policy development. The requirements and objectives set by these documents are required to be met within accepted time frames. Melbourne Water's strategy and guidelines regulating conditions of discharge into the main drainage network are yet to be developed. When they are, some adjustments to Council's Drainage Policy may be required.

### **Local Government**

Before amalgamation Banyule was managed by three Councils. Relevant parts of their Conservation Strategies have been adopted and reflect the context in which the development of the policy takes place.

Strategies relevant to Banyule are:

- Heidelberg Conservation Strategy 1989.
- Eltham Conservation Strategy 1993.
- Diamond Valley Conservation Strategy 1995.

These strategies reflect the commitment of the former municipalities to environment protection and set clear objectives and actions. The waterway conservation sections provide some directions related to the management of the drainage system. No specific drainage strategy was in place prior to the amalgamation.

**Banyule Environment Policy and Strategy 1997** retains these objectives and actions which are relevant to the Banyule area.

The policy formulates policy aims and relevant strategies for the following main issues:

- Protection of natural environment.
- Protection of an environmental and heritage aspects of the built environment.
- Resources, waste and pollution.
- Community awareness and involvement.
- Issue of implementation of the strategy.

**Banyule City Council Municipal Strategic Statement June 1997** refers to drainage in Section 6 - Built Environment.



## Drainage Policy

The aims from this section of the Statement that are recognised and addressed in Council's Drainage Policy are:

- Protection and enhancement of the amenity of Banyule's diverse landscape values
- Efficient and effective use of all infrastructure
- Efficient and sustainable use of resources

The strategies formulated in the Municipal Strategy Statement set the reference point for the formulation of key issues and the Drainage Policy Statements.

# Part B - Drainage Policy

## Principles

We will aim to:

- provide an **efficient drainage service** that ensures properties are protected and the general amenity of the area is maintained or improved.
- improve the **quality of water** discharged to creeks and rivers.
- provide an **appropriate level** of drainage service
- **consult** with the community.
- utilise **innovative and cost effective practices** to develop the drainage network.
- provide a **quality service** associated with drainage which will include:
  - responsive and efficient drainage maintenance.
  - access to drainage information.
  - assistance in a flooding situation.
  - guidance and advice in the process of property development.
- **monitor and maintain** the drainage system so its value and technical standard will not be diminished.
- maintain an **accurate inventory** of the drainage network.

These principles have been developed to assist in the process of assessing and prioritising issues and formulating action plans. The principles also represent the Banyule City Council's commitment to the provision of first class, environmentally focused services to its residents.

### Key Drainage Issues

The key issues and associated actions are:

#### 1. Efficiency and Technical Standard of the System.

Banyule drainage is diverse in its quality and standard. The age of the drainage system ranges from drains built over 100 years ago to those built just recently. The drainage network varies greatly between sections of the Municipality.

There are sections which have:

- A very good drainage system.
- A system which is comprehensive but of insufficient capacity.
- A system with effective main drains but no secondary network.
- An incomplete and insufficient system.
- No drainage system at all.

Council's task is to develop and improve the drainage network so that all properties have access to the network and are protected from flooding.

The development of the system must also protect the environment. The condition of creeks and rivers is dependent on the quality of water discharged from the drainage system. It is necessary to ensure that water quality improves, so ensuring the restoration of the creeks and rivers.

#### *Policy Statement*

*Council is committed to the development and maintenance of its drainage system which maximises its efficiency, ensures public safety and protects the environment.*

#### *Key actions*

- Develop a program for audits to identify areas in need of improvement.
- Prepare a prioritized program to carry out upgrading works of the drainage system.
- Assess the benefits of using the road network as part of the major drainage system and specify appropriate actions.
- Review Council's drainage standards and specifications to ensure the best design methods and construction techniques are utilised.

### 2. Environmental Sustainability

#### a) water purification and litter control.

The natural environment of the parklands located along the Yarra River, Plenty River and Darebin Creek are prominent features of Banyule's environment and are appreciated and used by the community.. This ecosystem of the waterways and wetlands provide recreational and educational opportunities for the community. They also provide an escape from the busy urban environment. As a building block of the Port Phillip Bay ecosystem, which is environmentally stretched due to urban development, these parklands needs to be preserved to maintain the good health of the Bay. It is a goal of the Council that the flora and fauna which exists in this area will be passed on to future generations.

The survival of flora and fauna in parklands along creeks and rivers depend on the quality of water discharging from the drainage system. Litter dumped destroys the aesthetic value.

Other impurities such as:

- Oils and fuels washed from roads and car parks.
- Chemical spills.
- Industrial discharges.
- Sediments from unmade roads and construction sites.

Fertilisers applied to lawns and garden beds are the major source of chemical pollution and turbidity of our creeks and rivers. With the cooperation of Melbourne Water and EPA it is possible to ensure that urban run-off entering creeks and rivers will be clean and beneficial to the riparian ecosystem. All users including councils must commit themselves to improving the quality of water discharging from their drainage systems. The final result will be healthy and clean rivers including the Yarra River and a healthy and clean Port Phillip Bay.

#### *Policy statement*

*Council will develop and implement a strategy to improve the quality of urban run-off.*

#### *Key actions*

- Continue the installation of rubbish traps in side entry pits wherever it is required.
- Install litter and silt interceptors on major drainage outlets.
- Investigate the possibility of creating wetlands, lakes or ponds within major reserves for the purpose of purification and retention of drainage water.
- Create a program for the construction of wetlands, lakes or ponds, where appropriate.
- Develop and support monitoring programs to identify sources of waterway pollutants including litter and illegal discharge of sewerage.

## Drainage Policy

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- Assist in determining priorities for the implementation of pollution control measures.
- Develop and implement guidelines and planning permit conditions to prevent sediment discharge from construction sites.
- Monitor any new technological developments that may be used within the municipality to achieve better results at minimum costs to the community.
- Enhance existing wetlands system.

### **b) flow levels and discharge control.**

As the density of housing increases, the areas of impervious surfaces within a development area increases as well. Consequently the rate of discharge from an area will also increase. In areas where a considerable number of developments have occurred the drainage system may be overtaxed. Creeks and rivers will experience larger and faster flows putting strong pressure on their ability to maintain their natural environment. Banks can be eroded; wildlife habitat can be destroyed.

The most practical and cost effective method of addressing this problem is to introduce detention systems. They should be constructed in developments that are likely to increase stormwater discharge. Detention systems will hold water and then release it slowly, simulating flow patterns which existed before development took place. This approach is environmentally superior to other concepts such as collecting monetary contributions for drain enlargements or duplications. It maintains discharge into creeks and rivers at existing levels and is much easier and cheaper to implement. It is also less troublesome to residents located downstream. No disruption to their properties will occur because there is no need for drainage reconstruction.

#### *Policy statement*

*Council will ensure that the peak levels of urban run-off discharging into the creeks and rivers will be maintained at a constant level, bench marked from the date of adoption of this policy and that minimum levels will be sufficient to maintain environmental flows in waterways where possible.*

#### *Key actions*

- Encourage the use of detention systems in new and existing developments in critical areas to maintain constant discharge levels into creeks and rivers.
- Require the construction of lakes and ponds in new large subdivisions.
- Develop guidelines for the design and use of the detention systems and identify those areas in the municipality where drainage detention systems will be mandatory.

### 3. Efficient and Cost Effective Maintenance

Maintenance of the drainage system should be carried out to the highest possible standard achievable within Council's financial framework and must ensure that the operational value of the asset is maintained and possible failures foreseen and prevented.

Any deficiency in the maintenance of this asset may endanger human life, lead to property damage, and ultimately cause costly repairs and replacement. The aging of the asset, in association with poor maintenance, usually causes a chain reaction of failures.

This means that repair and replacement costs will increase dramatically and will exceed Council's ability to provide the necessary funds. Properly managed maintenance and surveillance of the system will ensure that yearly budgets will be optimal and Council will be able to meet the costs.

#### *Policy Statement*

*Council will maintain an efficient and responsive maintenance service, which will include procedures designed to:*

- *monitor the asset*
- *ensure preservation of the quality and value of the system*
- *fulfil the needs and expectations of the community.*

#### *Key actions*

- Continue to implement regular maintenance programs which will include:
  - Regular cleaning of pits and drains within the road reserve and along major easement drains.
  - Regular inspection of trouble spots.
  - Recording of data on the SUS 25 drainage inventory software package.
- Ensure the operational value of the asset is maintained by foreseeing and preventing possible failures.
- Liaise with customers to quickly respond to maintenance related problems.
- Consider a program for monitoring the quality of water entering wetland systems.

### 4. Community Awareness and Consultation

The community has an important role to play with regard to drainage issues. There are many issues which are of strong interest to many within the community. Some of them, such as the protection of our environment, Special Charge Schemes or flooding issues will have strong political impact if they are not properly presented for public discussion. Community involvement is necessary in the process for determining the needs for particular services or actions. Council must ensure that everything it does is in the interest of the community and is seen as such.

To fulfil these objectives Council needs to develop methods of communication that will hear the community and react to its expectations. Council also needs to explain to residents its actions and reasons behind these actions.

A number of interest groups are active within the municipality. These groups are very effective in conveying the opinions of the community. Environmental groups in particular will be able to contribute to developments in the drainage area as the environmental aspect of drainage become more prominent. Council recognises the value of the input of such groups and will seek more participation in the future.

#### *Policy Statement*

*Council will encourage community involvement in the decision making process relating to drainage.*

#### *Key actions*

- Support community involvement in the process of shaping our future drainage system.
- Develop communication between the Council and the community with regard to drainage issues.
- Ensure that the community is consulted with regard to major decisions related to drainage issues.
- Introduce resident awareness programs regarding the detrimental impact of street litter and other pollutants on creeks and rivers.
- Support participation in community activities and programs such as Clean-up Australia Day and Community Stream Watch.
- Develop standards in concert with the community.

### 5. Asset Management

Drainage must be recognised as a significant Council asset. The approximate value of this asset at present is \$75 million. Establishment of an effective management tool, useful for monitoring the performance of the drainage system and providing information for accounting purposes is essential. Maintenance costs are strongly linked to the value of the asset. Information about the technical standard will determine the level of maintenance required to preserve its value. This will also enable preparation of long term programs for drainage repairs and upgrades.

Information from the asset management system, in conjunction with the Urban Stormwater Research Program results, will facilitate planning for future drainage development.

#### *Policy Statement*

*Council will, as a part of its Asset Management Program, establish Drainage Asset Management System for Council's drainage network.*

#### *Key actions*

- Develop a strategy to regularly audit the Council's drainage system
- Regularly update information on the drainage system during drainage maintenance.
- Use the drainage audit as the basis of a drainage inventory for the development of a Drainage Asset Management System.
- Ensure that the drainage inventory is accessible to all interested parties.



### **6. Liaison with Authorities and Organisations**

To satisfy different needs of the community and to achieve the best results, it is necessary to coordinate actions of all parties involved in activities associated with drainage.

One of the most important partners for Banyule in this regard is Melbourne Water. Its role is to coordinate the actions of all councils to ensure that desirable outcomes within larger catchments are achieved. Provision and maintenance of large drains is another Melbourne Water activity. Cooperation with Banyule in this respect ensures efficiencies, priorities and proper timing of construction of those drains.

Organisations such as the Environment Protection Authority, YarraCare and the Port Phillip Catchment and Land Protection Board provide important expertise about environmental issues associated with drainage. Professional organisations like the Asset Management Special Interest Group of LGPro and the research sections of tertiary institutions are another source of expertise. Strategies and information produced by these organisations are important in relation to policy development.

Council has established a strong link with Victoria University. The University is developing a hydraulic model which can be applied to the Banyule's drainage system and this will be used as a basis for drainage design in the future.

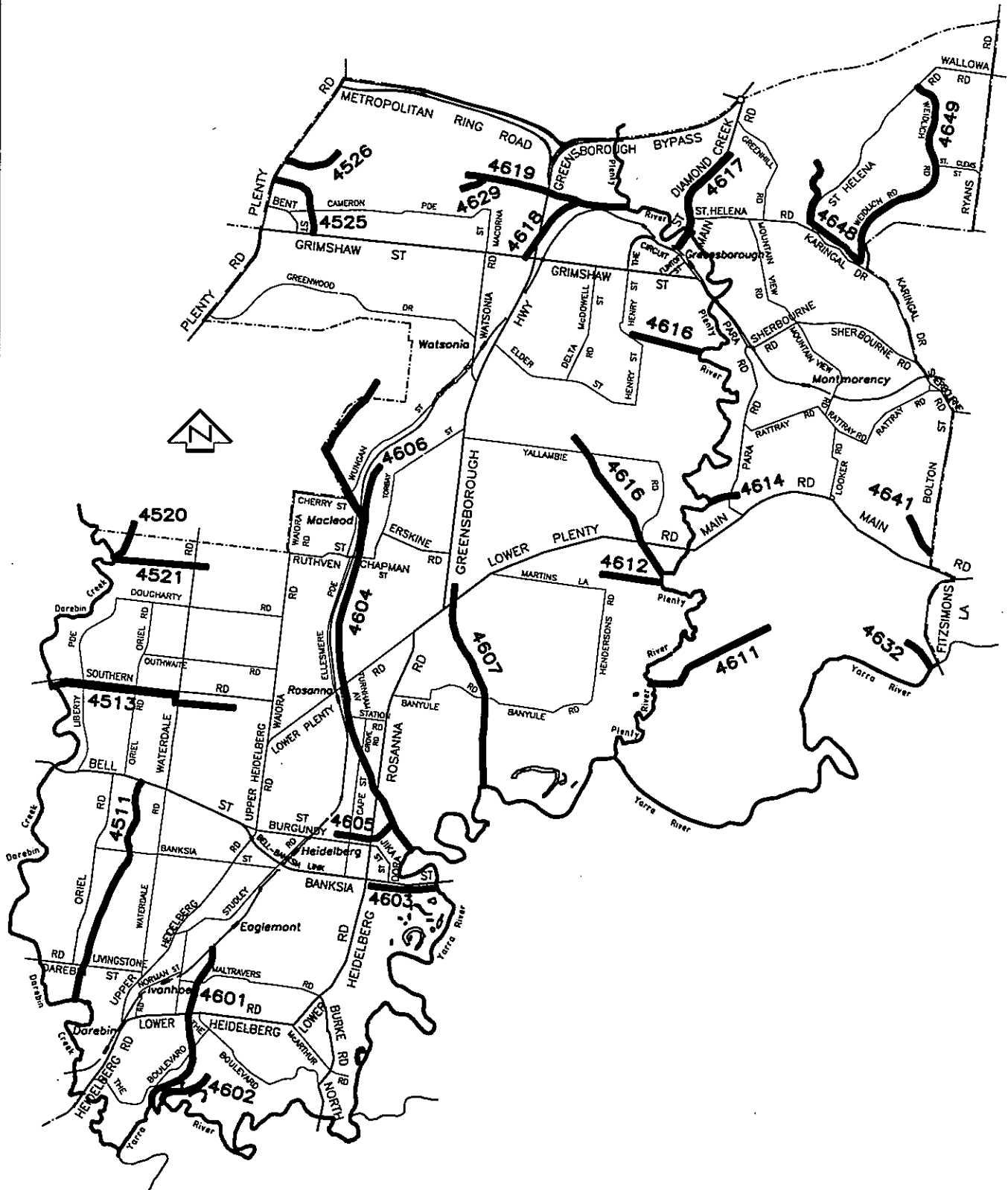
#### ***Policy Statement***

***Council will work cooperatively with organisations involved with water management, environment protection and others to ensure a coordinated approach to drainage issues.***

#### ***Key actions***

- Actively seek the cooperation of organisations which have an interest in environment and drainage.
- Participate in drainage initiatives conducted by other organisations, if of benefit to the environment and residents of Banyule.
- Establish strong cooperating links with Melbourne Water particularly in relation to improvements to drains, creeks and rivers in Banyule.
- Continue cooperation with Victoria University.

# CITY OF BANYULE



**MELBOURNE WATER MAIN DRAINS**

### **7. Major Drainage Issues**

The Salt Creek Catchment, Weatherlake/Bungay Streets Catchment and parts of Lower Plenty are designated as major trouble areas within Banyule.

Following the construction of a retention basin in Potter Reserve by Melbourne Water the situation within the Salt Creek catchment has improved dramatically. There is a need however to develop a floodway in the lower part of this catchment where properties are still subjected to flooding during 100 year Annual Recurrence Interval (ARI) storms. Council should also ensure that there is sufficient intake capacity into the existing underground drain located along the Salt Creek valley. Upstream redevelopments needs to have controls on discharge levels through the utilisation of retention systems.

The drainage problem in the Weatherlake/Bungay Streets Catchment and Boyd Street requires extensive works. The former Shire of Diamond Valley constructed a detention basin and has constructed a 2100mm diameter drain in AK Lines Reserve. These works have eliminated the possibility of flooding in the vicinity of Knight St. Additional drainage works however, are required to protect properties upstream located in Weatherlake and Rushworth Streets.

Lower Plenty still has some scope for development which will require development of the drainage network. A Local Structure Plan with an associated Development Contribution Plan will need to be developed to secure funds for the development of the drainage network.

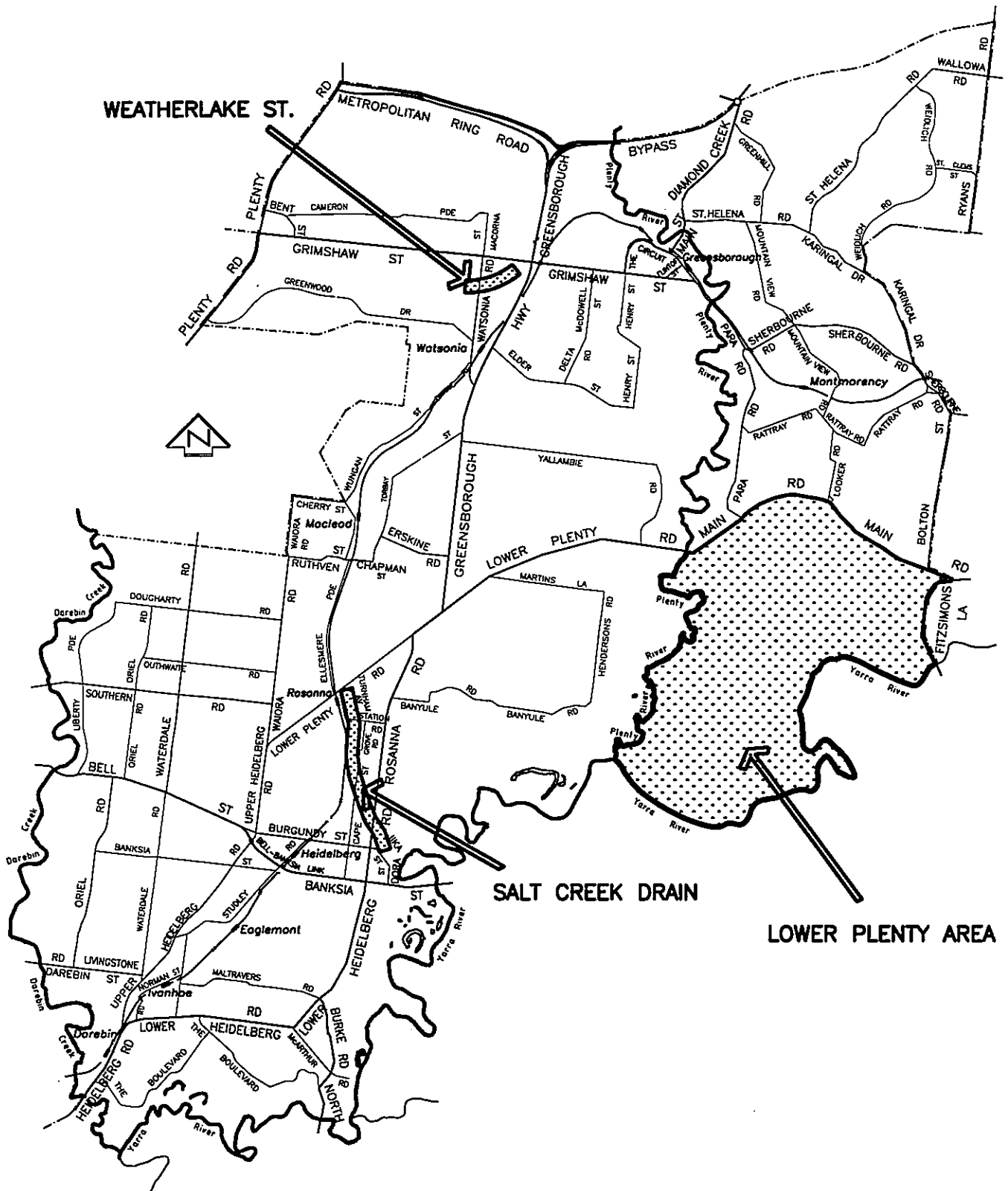
#### *Policy Statement*

*Council is committed to addressing drainage issues which may cause damage to properties and compromise public safety.*

#### *Key actions*

- Prepare a 5 Year Works Program with funding requirements designed to address drainage issues.
- Prepare a Local Structure Plan and Development Contribution Plan for the undeveloped areas of Banyule in particular the Lower Plenty area.
- Prepare a drainage design and implementation plan as required by the Local Structure Plan.
- Negotiate with Melbourne Water to obtain financial assistance to rectify problem areas.
- Improve the aesthetical aspect of AK Lines detention basin.

# CITY OF BANYULE



## MAJOR DRAINAGE ISSUES

### 8. Special Charge Schemes

A significant part of the Banyule has no formalised drainage system. In some situations existing laneways are performing the role of drainage. In others, properties are sufficiently big enough to contain the run-off without causing nuisance to others. In most situations however there is the need to provide a drainage system and the only option is to declare a Special Charge Scheme for drainage where residents pay for the necessary works.

Before a scheme is implemented, extensive community consultation is necessary. This will ensure that residents understand the need for the scheme. It is possible that some residents will not see any direct benefit to them, however, due to the upstream location of their properties they are responsible for drainage problems experienced by residents living downstream. It is Council's role to explain these responsibilities to residents, to convince them to contribute voluntarily to a scheme which will rectify the problem.

#### *Policy Statement*

*Where no formal drainage system exists or existing systems are inadequate and residents will gain a benefit, Council will implement Special Charge Scheme to finance the necessary drainage works.*

#### *Key actions*

- Develop a Special Charge Schemes Policy.
- Determine which areas within Banyule are in need of drainage schemes.
- Prepare guidelines formulating conditions in which drainage schemes are to be declared and conditions where compulsory schemes can be introduced.
- Prepare and maintain a 5 year program of Special Charge Schemes for drainage.
- Arrange for extensive community consultation before commencement of any scheme.

### 9. Funding Issues

Should Council adopt this policy there needs to be set in place appropriate funding strategies to fulfil the objectives of the policy. In the process of allocation of funds drainage projects will compete other other projects through the process of evaluation recently adopted by Council. There are key actions which identify works and services that are not currently resourced. Council has several options available that will enable it to provide the necessary funds.

These are:

- **Council Funds.** There will be instances where Council itself is a party to a scheme and must pay its contribution. Other actions like drainage audits and maintenance works to satisfy required service levels can only be resourced from Council funds.
- **Development Contribution Plans.** A Local Structure Plan with an associated Development Contribution Plan can be used to secure funds for drainage works for developments in broad areas like Lower Plenty.
- **Individual development agreements.** Where there is an isolated development it is more appropriate to negotiate the necessary contributions in the form of a '173 Agreement'
- **Special Charge Schemes.** Where there is a legal obligation and many contributors these schemes can be implemented.
- **Voluntary contribution schemes.** This method is particularly effective where there are only a small number of contributors.

Each action within this policy should be assessed regarding its funding needs and possible funding source. These can then be prioritised and strategies and guidelines developed for securing the required funds.

#### *Policy Statement*

*Council will develop strategies for securing funds through various sources to ensure adequate funds are available to carry out the key actions identified by this policy.*

#### *Key actions*

- Identify funding needs and possible sources for each of the key actions within this policy.
- Prioritise each of the key actions.
- Establish guidelines and develop and implement strategies, according to established priorities, for securing funds required for each of the key actions.

### **Policy Statements**

1. Council is committed to the development and maintenance of its drainage system which maximises its efficiency, ensures public safety and protects the natural environment.
2.
  - a) Council will develop and implement a strategy to improve the quality of urban run-off.
  - b) Council will ensure that the peak levels of urban run-off discharging into the creeks and rivers will be maintained at a constant level, bench marked from the date of adoption of this policy and that minimum levels will be sufficient to maintain environmental flows in waterways where possible.
3. Council will maintain an efficient and responsive maintenance service, which will include the procedures designed to:
  - a) monitor the asset
  - b) ensure the preservation of the quality and value of the system
  - c) fulfil the needs and expectations of the community.
4. Council will encourage community involvement in the decision making process relating to drainage.
5. Council will, as a part of its Asset Management Program, establish Drainage Asset Management System for Council's drainage network.
6. Council will work cooperatively with organisations involved with water management, environment protection and others to ensure a coordinated approach to drainage issues.
7. Council is committed to addressing drainage issues which may cause damage to properties and compromise public safety.
8. Where no formal drainage system exists or existing systems are inadequate and residents will gain a benefit, Council will implement Special Charge Scheme to finance the necessary drainage works.
9. Council will develop strategies for securing funds through various sources to ensure adequate funds are available to carry out the key actions identified in this policy.



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