Gheringhap Street Drain Upgrade

Frequently Asked Questions

September 2018

Why are the works being carried out on Gheringhap Street?

Central Geelong is growing rapidly and the existing infrastructure needs to be updated and improved to enable this progress.

With three significant rain events in the past 10 years, flooding is a recognised problem for central Geelong and makes it more challenging to develop new buildings.

To remedy this, the City of Greater Geelong commissioned a detailed assessment for the CBD, to investigate and quantify the flood risk, and consider how this risk could be reduced. Detailed flood modelling highlighted the areas where flood depths and extents posed a significant risk to pedestrians, vehicles and CBD buildings.

Constructing an additional stormwater drain along Gheringhap Street, from near Johnstone Park to Corio Bay, was identified as a means to significantly reduce the frequency and severity of flooding within the CBD following major storm events.

How will the works improve flooding in the area?

Constructing this drain will significantly reduce the frequency of flooding and the length of time surface flood waters impact central Geelong following major storm events

Reducing the flood risk in the CBD will benefit local businesses, residents, visitors, workers, students and developers.

Prior to being discharged into Corio Bay the storm water will go through a filtration system, reducing the amount of rubbish making its way to the bay.

What is the project timeframe?

Construction works are planned to take place between February 2019 and December 2019. During this time traffic management plans will be in place to minimise the impact on road, cycle and pedestrians users in the area. Changes to traffic will be communicated through a regular project update throughout 2019.

How will the works be carried out?

The construction method of ‘micro-tunnelling’ was selected because it provides the greatest cost-benefit, shortest duration and the least amount of disruption to the local community, particularly Gheringhap Street users and occupants.

Micro-tunnelling requires the use of specialised machinery to bore an underground tunnel and then push through each section of pipe to create the 450-meter long drain.The main benefit of micro-tunnelling is that the majority of the existing street above ground remains undisturbed.

The alternative construction method was ‘open trenching’ however this would have caused significantly more disturbance as essentially the entire street would have been dug up and closed for the duration of the project, interrupting traffic, essential services and access to buildings. The storm water drain alignment runs under the western edge of the foreshore skate park, with the construction of the outfall to Corio Bay requiring some alteration of the garden beds. Access to the skate park and car park will be restricted for a period of time to allow the works and reinstatement to occur. The project team will continue liaising with skate park and car park

users, as well as the adjacent traders, on the timing of these works.

How will construction noise, vibration and dust be managed?

The appointed construction contractor will prepare a construction management plan to identify the environmental impacts of the project and establish the mitigation methods in accordance with EPA guidelines.

The advantages of pipe jacking includes a significant reduction in the amount of excavated soil being trucked offsite during tunnelling operations. This is expected to be limited to only a few trucks per day.

Will there still be access to properties and roads during the works?

Traffic management will be in for the duration of the project. Two-way vehicle access will be maintained for the majority of the works, however there will be some road closures required to setup and remove traffic changes and install the launch and access shafts. . Advance notice of detours in and around Gheringhap Street will be provided at these times. The project team will continue to liaise directly with Gheringhap Street residents and businesses on access needs throughout the project.

What will Gheringhap Street look like at the end of the project?

The majority of Gheringhap Street will be unchanged at the end of the project.

The skate park structure will be returned to its current design, A new exit point from the adjacent foreshore car park is proposed to assist maintenance vehicles and improve traffic entry and exit.

The project requires the removal of 10 trees along Gheringhap Street, including two mature oak trees opposite WorkSafe. The health of these trees is declining, and their removal will ensure the works can be performed safely, whilst also preventing any future infrastructure damage or risks to the public. The removal of the 10 trees will be offset by the replanting of 15 new advanced trees, providing a gain of five trees along Gheringhap St. The replacement trees - 2.5m-tall Pin Oaks - is consistent with the existing plantings along Gheringhap Street and will serve to enhance the overall streetscape of the area.

For further information or to register for notifications

If you would like to register your email to receive regular project updates, please email your name and mention the Gheringhap Street Drain Project to rcg@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

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