

Project news

December 2023



Elster Creek Sewerage Capacity Upgrade

We manage a proactive infrastructure program which involves replacing, maintaining and upgrading the existing water and sewerage infrastructure above and below ground so you can always rely on us when you need a drink, a bath, to wash the clothes or dishes and every time you flush or send water down the drain.

We're upgrading the ageing Elster Creek sewer in the Bentleigh and Bentleigh East area to increase the capacity of the sewer network to cater for population growth and future proof the sewerage system.

Higgins Road Area

Works are almost finished in this section of the project. This was the first of three areas in Bentleigh where the Elster Creek Sewerage Capacity upgrade was undertaken.

Local residents and visitors in the Higgins Road area will have noticed the completion of deep excavation works at the Lawson Street roundabout. The highly specialised excavation took 26 weeks to complete and reached 10 metres in depth, the lowest point of the sewer network which works under gravity operation.

Final connections of our newly installed sewer pipe to the existing sewer network at both London Street and Higgins Road are anticipated to be completed by late March 2024.

Some final minor works and reinstatement on Higgins Road will be completed by mid-March 2024.

What is a gravity sewer system?

A gravity sewer uses the natural slope of the pipeline to move sewage away from the property to the closest collection point. The sewage is then transported to a local or regional treatment plant. These types of sewer system are considered traditional methods for disposing of sewage.

McKinnon Reserve

Park users and dog walkers visiting McKinnon Reserve may have seen the reduced project footprint as we progress winding the project down and continue to return the reserve as closely as possible to its original condition.

Key facts



496 metres of underground micro tunnelling has been completed in the Higgins Road area.



900 metres of underground tunnelling has been completed in the Tucker Road area.



Around 707 tonnes of soil has been excavated in the Higgins Road area and repurposed off site.



Around 900 tonnes of soil has been excavated from the Tucker Road area and repurposed off site.





Project timeline



March 2022

Pre-construction.



Works started in Higgins Road area.

November 2022

Works started in McKinnon Reserve.

June 2023

Works started along the Tucker Road alignment, commencing in Ellen Street.

November 2023

Works completed through to Daphne and Laurel Streets from Charles Street.

December 2023

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Minor works in Malane Street. Works continue in Laurel Street. Project sites packed up and reinstated for full road opening by Friday 22 December 2023.

January 2024

Crews return Monday 8 January 2024. Works to

March 2024*

Expected final reinstatement and project completion

*Weather permitting and subject to safety, permit and technical requirements.

This key area of the project has been instrumental due to the installation of two retention storage tanks, each 37m long and 2.4m deep, underground to manage the current and future sewer overflows during storm events, protecting the local community and environment from spills.

The works in Laurel Street are anticipated to be completed by the end of January 2024, at which point the final connection of the newly installed sewer pipe to the existing sewer network at Tucker Road can be made. This is anticipated to be completed by early March 2024.

Ellen Street, Malane Street, Charles Street, Daphne Street and Laurel Street

Construction has now been completed from Tucker Road all the way through to Laurel Street. The final section in Laurel Street is expected to be completed by mid January 2024.

Some final minor works will also be required in Ellen Street in early January 2024. Final asphalt works to all streets where there were shaft locations will also be completed in early 2024.

In most areas we've needed to operate generators and water pumps to keep shaft conditions dry and safe for construction crews and equipment.

We've done our best to reduce the noise by using noise blankets but you might still hear them operating. We're sorry about the disruption.

Thank you for your patience

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we work to improve the sewerage infrastructure in your local area. We'll complete these works soon and start returning the area as close as possible to its original condition.

Need to get in touch?

We're here to help, so here's how to reach our project team:

ZJW

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South East Water

1800 728 256 engagement@sew.com.au

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Figure 1. Map of the works areas.

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

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