



South Melbourne Sewer Upgrade - Investigation Works

Every day, South East Water is maintaining and upgrading the pipes and pumps that keep the sewerage network flowing – that’s why we’ll be installing a new sewer main in South Melbourne and Southbank as part of the South Melbourne Sewer Upgrade.

The South Melbourne Sewer Upgrade will increase the capacity of the sewer network to cater for population growth and future proof the sewerage network. This project has been split into three stages:

• Stage 1 (Complete)

This stage was completed in February 2024. Works included construction of a new sewer pipe and sewer maintenance holes along Stead Street and Palmerston Crescent, South Melbourne.

• Stage 2 (This Project)

Stage 2 will include installing a new underground sewer pipe and maintenance holes running from the corner of Stead Street and Palmerston Crescent, heading north up Tope Street and terminating near the corner of Clark Street and City Road, Southbank. This stage will also include a proposed sewage pump station on Market Street, South Melbourne.

• Stage 3 (Future)

This stage will involve re-lining an existing sewer under Kingsway and Wells Street South Melbourne.

Investigation works for stage 2 will start in mid-November 2025. Our delivery partner Beca Fulton Hogan Interflow (BFHI) will complete these works for us.

Why we’re doing this project

These essential sewer works will ensure we continue to supply you with a reliable sewerage network, cater for population growth and future proof South Melbourne’s sewer system.

Where is the new underground sewer pipe located?

Through the early planning phase of this project, South East Water and its delivery partners identified a proposed alignment for the new sewer main. Please refer to stage 2 on the map overleaf.

Project news

October 2025

Key facts



The sewer beneath Kingsway was originally constructed in 1897



1.6km of underground pipes will be laid



This project will cater for population growth and keep your toilets flushing



Before the first sewerage network was built, Melbourne was known as ‘Smellbourne’

Project timeline

Early 2024
Stage 1 works complete

Late 2025
Investigation works (current)

- Site investigations
- Technical and engineering assessments

Mid 2026
Construction Start

- Mobilisation and Construction
- Further engineering investigations

2029
Construction End and Reinstalment



What will investigation works involve?

Before construction works start for stage 2, our delivery partner BFHI needs to complete investigation works.

Investigation works will involve the following activities:

- A small team of construction workers conducting visual inspections
- Drilling small holes to collect soil samples to understand ground conditions.
- Locating underground services using ground penetrating radar and non-destructive digging.
- Visual inspections of trees and shrubs to identify potential construction impacts.

The proposed alignment is subject to change pending investigation works.



How long will investigation works take?

Investigation works will start in mid-November and take eight months to complete.

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 as out of hours night work for permit and safety reasons.



Please note these dates are subject to change pending investigation works.



What might impact you

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

- Periods of noise when heavy machinery are in operation.
- Restricted parking at times.
- Lights when we work at night.
- Traffic impacts on the roads around the works areas.
- Temporary safety barriers, fencing and signage for your safety.

Traffic management, including lane closures, traffic lights, detours and road closures, will be temporarily in place to safely guide you around our work areas. We ask that you follow the instructions of our traffic controllers for your safety and the safety of our crews.

You shouldn't notice any changes to your water or sewer services while we work. When we've finished, we'll leave things how we found them and make sure we return any areas we've impacted as close as possible to their original condition.



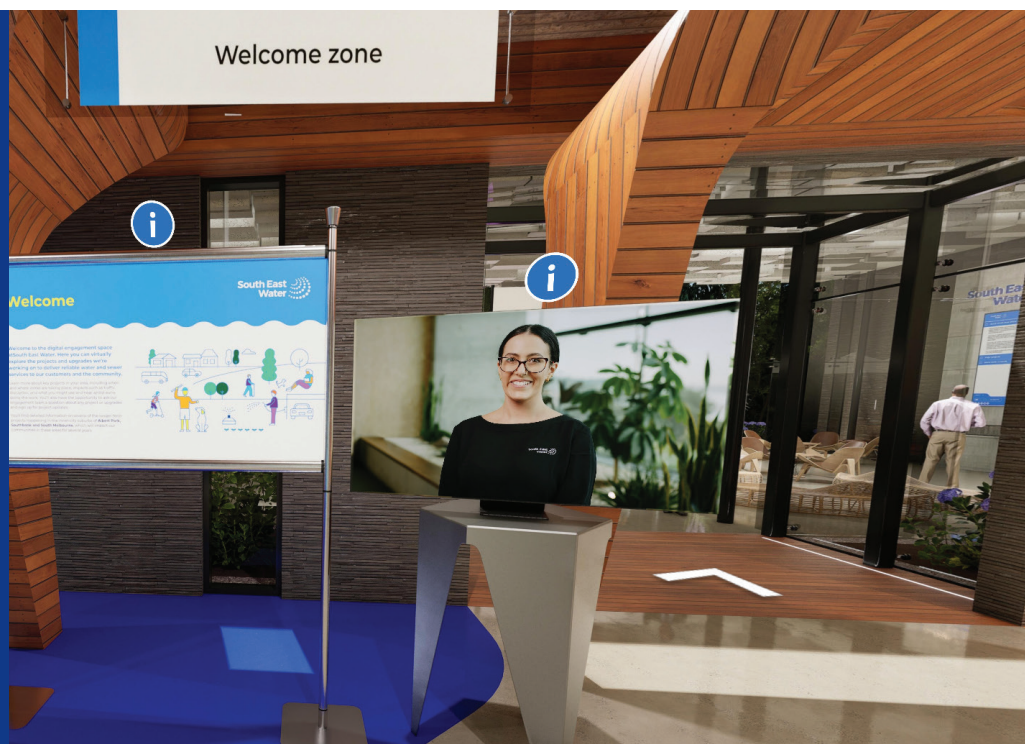
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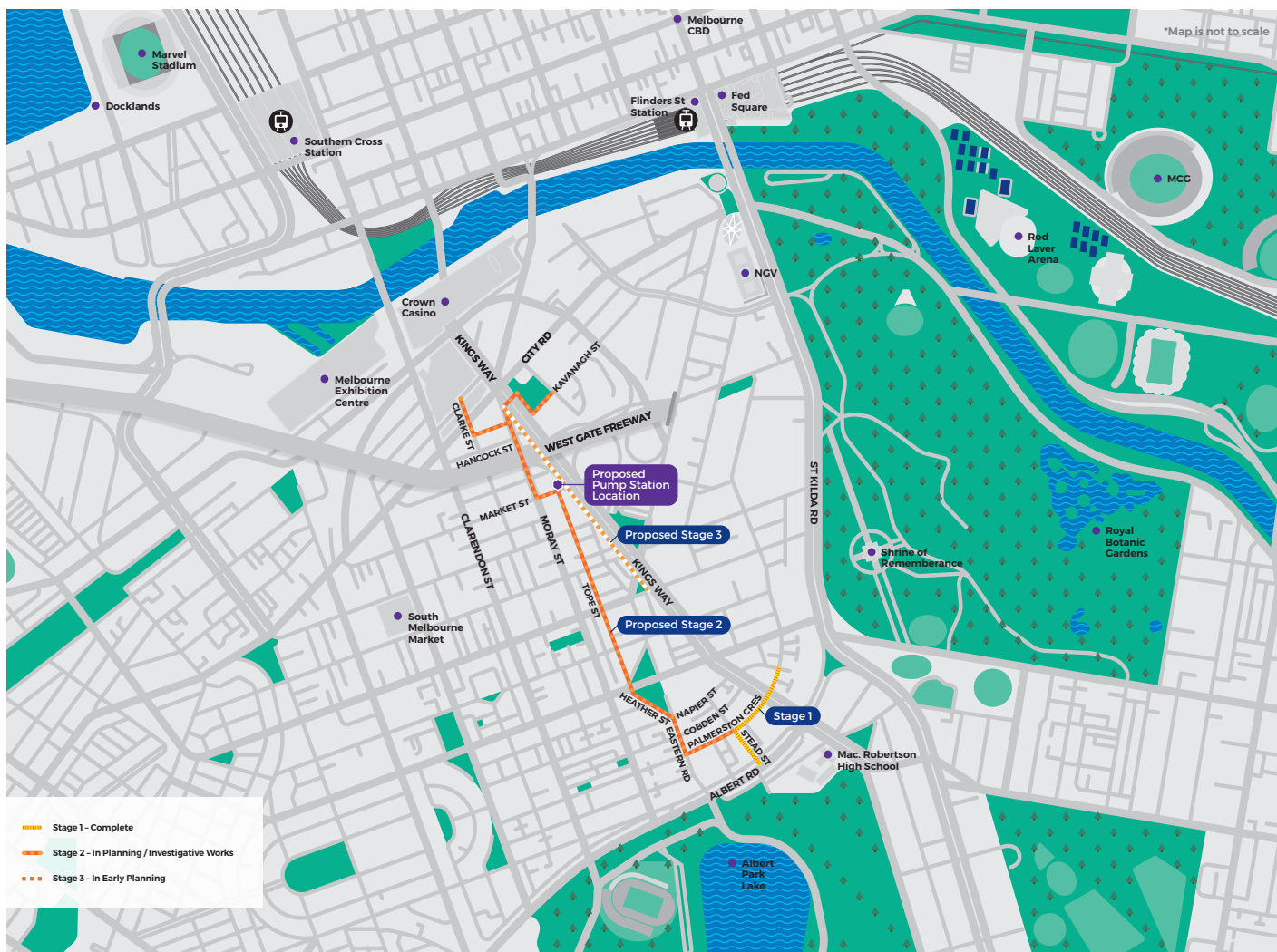
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Please note the above alignment may change subject to investigation works.

Get in touch

Call: 1800 728 256

Email: southmelbourne@sew.com.au

Web: southeastwater.com.au/southmelbournestage2



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)

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Interpreter service



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