

8th April 2026

Victorian Planning Authority (VPA)
GPO Box 2392
MELBOURNE VIC 3001
(By email merrimu@transport.vic.gov.au)

Dear Sir / Madam,

RE: Merrimu Precinct Structure Plan C109moor - Proposed Melbourne Water easement, PAO6.

I refer to the letter received by my parents, [REDACTED] on 12th March 2026 regarding the draft planning scheme amendment to implement the Merrimu Precinct Structure Plan (PSP).

The letter received by my parents gave notice of Melbourne Water's proposal to create an easement on a portion of my parents' land ([REDACTED], Darley) for the construction of a drainage outfall via a Planning Acquisition Overlay (PAO6) as part of the Merrimu PSP (C109moor).

We also attended a meeting with VPA and Melbourne Water staff on 19th March 2026, and have engaged in further email correspondence with Melbourne Water and VPA to clarify specific details in relation to this proposal.

My parents are landowners that are affected by this proposal and they have asked me to lodge the following submission on their behalf.

Submissions

1. Proposed Planning Acquisition Overlay (PAO6)

VPA and Melbourne Water staff have confirmed with us that the proposed Planning Acquisition Overlay (PAO6) proposes the creation of an easement on a portion of my parents' land, and that it does not involve full acquisition of the land in question.

The relevant portion of my parents land was shown in the map initially provided by the VPA with the letter on 12th March 2026 (indicated as PAO6).

VPA and Melbourne Water have also confirmed that, if necessary, the PAO can be revised and amended to reflect any refinements to the amount of land required for the easement (resulting from detailed design of the outfall).

Accordingly, we request that the PAO is revised and amended if there is a reduction in the portion of my parents' land that is required for the proposed easement (i.e. once detailed design of the outfall is completed). This will avoid placing an unnecessary encumbrance on land that is not required for construction and management of the outfall.

2. Environmental Concerns and Waterway Management

Melbourne Water and VPA have confirmed the following with us:

- a) The diameter of the proposed outlet pipe will most likely be a 1050mm pipe, however this will be confirmed during implementation (detailed design) stage.
- b) The velocity will be restricted to 1.5m/s in accordance with Melbourne Water's constructed waterway design manual.
- c) The outlet will be set at approximately 45 degrees with the flow of the river, in accordance with Melbourne Water's constructed waterway design manual.

- d) Erosion and sediment control measures will be included and all stormwater discharge will meet Best Practice Environmental Management and Environment Protection Authority guidelines, and be in accordance with relevant Melbourne Water policies for buildings and works (e.g. erosion and sediment control, and stormwater management policies).
- e) If works are undertaken on the western bank they will be to ensure the bank is stabilised and there will be no long-term impacts to bank stability.
- f) Melbourne Water will inform its operational teams about the existing Willow trees and debris that currently inhibit water flow, particularly during high rainfall events, downstream of the proposed outfall location.

We have been advised that Melbourne Water will share an updated version of the outfall report for comment within 3-4 weeks (from 2nd April).

Accordingly, we request that a copy of the updated outfall report is shared with us for comment, and that Melbourne Water continue to engage with us during the design of the drainage outfall. This will allow us to provide comment based on our intimate knowledge of the river in this location, and offer suggestions to ensure environmental impacts are minimised, and river banks and waterway values are protected as far as practicable.

Finally, we request that Melbourne Water take into account all available information including rainfall data, flood data and flood modelling, including rainfall events that occur in the upstream catchment of the Lerderderg River and subsequent impact on downstream river levels, to ensure the proposed outfall does not contribute to flooding risks for property owners. It is requested that these aspects are properly considered in finalising the location and detailed design for the proposed drainage outfall.

Should you wish to discuss this submission further, or require additional information, please contact me via email ([REDACTED]).

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

(on behalf of [REDACTED])

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]