

[REDACTED]
Housing, Building and Land Delivery
Department of Transport and Planning
GPO Box 2392
Melbourne 3001

Thursday, April 16, 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON MERRIMU PRECINCT STRUCTURE PLAN

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the public consultation currently taking place for the proposed Merrimu Precinct Structure Plan.

GWV provided DTP with detailed water and sewer servicing requirements in January 2025 and it appears that information has failed to be captured in the PSP to date. Significant water and sewer infrastructure is required to service this PSP and other growth in the Bacchus Marsh region. Greater Western Water considers it to be important to show the proposed infrastructure as provided in the January 2025 submission, which is attached for convenience, for the following reasons:

- A major sewer pump station is required to service the 8000 new dwellings and 1800 local jobs. It will require land of approximately 4000 square metres to be set aside. Having this shown in the PSP will provide a good indicator on the servicing of the future precinct
- There is an existing major water main that traverses the proposed precinct. This water main provides the sole supply into Bacchus Marsh and needs to be protected or relocated by any future developments
- The Merrimu precinct enables future servicing of Hopetoun Park North, Parwan Residential and Parwan Employment precincts. As such large water mains will be required from the water storage tanks on Dodemaide Circuit and continue south towards the Parwan Employment Precinct. The future servicing strategy has identified that future water storages will be located at the intersection of Bences Rd and Diggers Rest – Coimodai Rd, replacing the current Dodemaide Circuit site. All major water mains will need to be located in large road corridors or within alignments with appropriate access.

Requirement 99 identifies that above ground infrastructure should be determined at the subdivision stage. Given the size of the water and sewer infrastructure required,

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they cannot be identified at the subdivision stage as this will not be conducive to the precinct planning that GWW is required to undertake.

It is noted in guideline 102, that the subdivision of land **should** provide and meet the total cost of delivering local infrastructure required by utility service providers. GWW will require that any subdivision of land will be accompanied by sufficient water and sewer infrastructure. There is a concern that if this is only a guideline that it may not be clear enough of what is expected when subdividing land.

GWW provided the following comments regarding agency consultation in December 2025 and also sent through a letter dated 30 January 2025 with further comments (appendix 1). The table is added below and the letter is attached to the email. We have also included the previous plan 10 that identified the indicative alignments for the water and sewer assets in appendix 2.

If you have any comments or questions with regards to this advice then please contact [REDACTED] [@gww.com.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@gww.com.au).

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

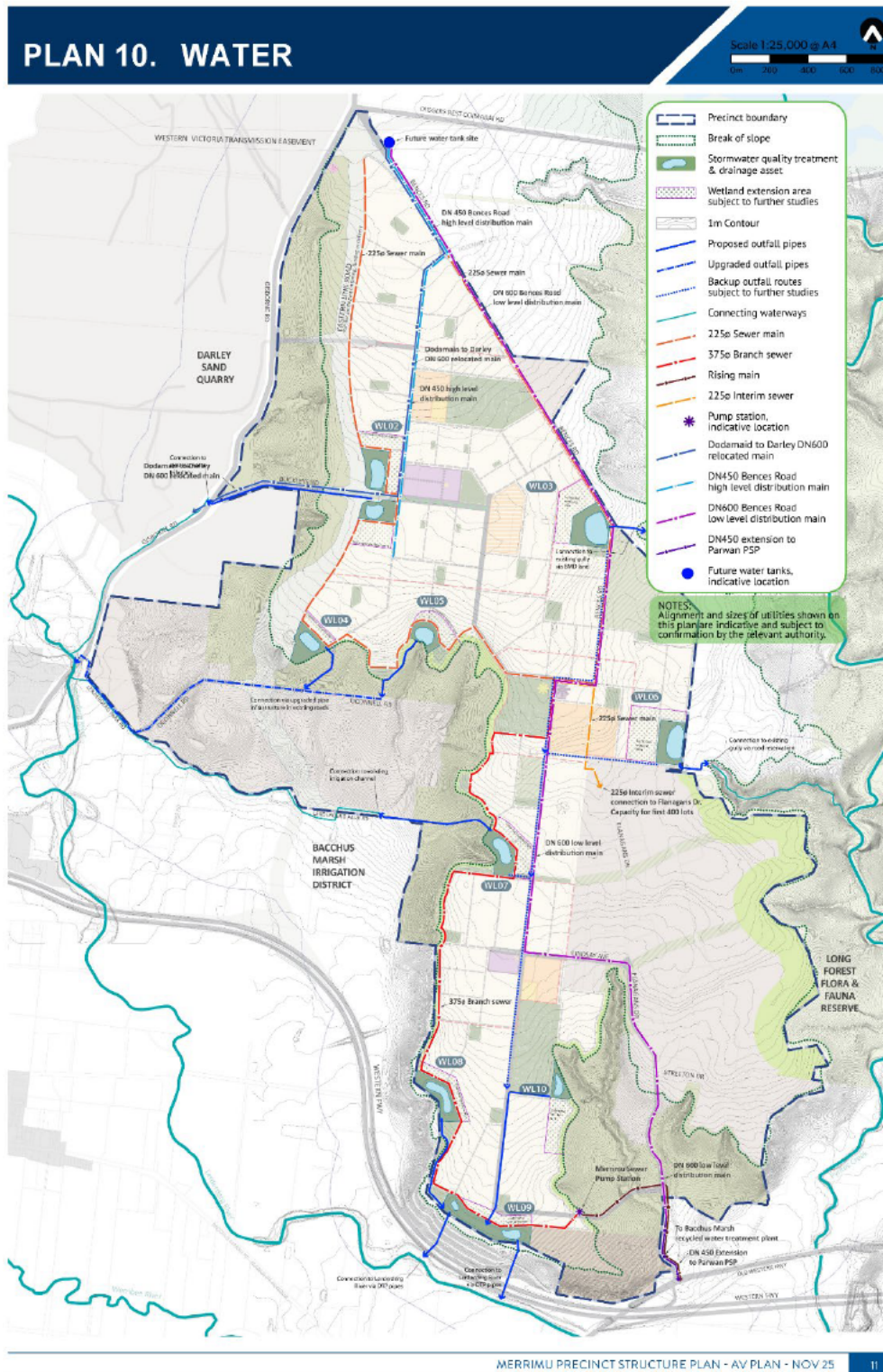
Head of Integrated Asset Planning

Appendix 1 - Response to request for agency consultation dated December 2025. Note that this response is when the water and sewer infrastructure was shown on Plan 10.

Page number PSP/Ordinance Footer number	Reference Section Objective/Requirement/ Guideline/Table/Plan/ Appendix/Other	Agency comment Explain why the change has been requested	Change needed Y/N	Change requested Exact wording for the change requested, italicize word changes where appropriate
Merrimu Integrated Water Management Opportunities Report	Throughout document.	Recycled water is mentioned throughout the PSP documentation. GWW's existing recycled water system is not within close proximity to Merrimu PSP and at this stage, recycled water should not be assumed as a potential servicing requirement. The closest Recycled Water Plant is Bacchus Marsh and would require upgrade from a Class C to a Class A plant as well as significant transfer infrastructure (several major waterway and road crossings including the Werribee River and Western Fwy) before being a viable alternative water supply option for Merrimu.	Y	Change references to recycled water to reflect that GWW has no future plans to supply Merrimu PSP with recycled water. Focus for alternative water supply should be on rainwater and stormwater harvesting.

6.2 WATER SUPPLY – POTABLE	Potable Water	GWW has recently updated its potable water servicing strategy for the Bacchus Marsh and Merrimu region.	Y	Refer to proposed servicing strategy outlined in attached letter dated 30 January 2025
Plan 10 – Water	Sewerage network	Further work is required for the sewerage network servicing plans as the currently shown network is longer than would be required and may not be constructable. Some sections of sewer may need to go through open space to enable efficient servicing. There is a risk that the sewer may not be possible to build along the proposed alignment as it could become too deep or not have any cover at all.	Y	Updates are required of the sewer network such that there would be adequate cover of the sewer and that it is not proposed to be built too deep. Whilst the indicative alignment and general layout will be sufficient for the planning phases, changes will be required during the detailed design phase of the development and whether some sections need to go through open space rather than around.

Appendix 2 – Agency consultation plan 2



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