



# John Holland KBR Joint Venture

Client           Melbourne Water

Date             2014-2017

## Description

The John Holland KBR Joint Venture (JHKBR JV) was selected, as one of two, panel members in a framework agreement to undertake Melbourne Water projects. As integral members of the team, Comacon consultants were working as engagement and communication advisors on a number of the projects awarded to the JHKBR JV.



This intense three-year period included work on projects such as:

- Tyabb Reservoir Renewal
- Merri Creek Sewer rehabilitation (early works)
- Kananook Creek retaining wall upgrade
- Dandenong Creek levee banks upgrade
- Carlton Main Sewer Rehabilitation
- Liverpool Road retarding basin upgrade
- Fussell Road retarding basin upgrade
- Prospect Hill retarding basin upgrade

Comacon consultants worked on multiple stages of each of these projects from tender submissions through design, construction and reinstatement.

## Projects

### Tyabb Reservoir Renewal

Managed by Melbourne Water, Tyabb Reservoir is a critical storage point used to meet summer water supply demands for the Mornington Peninsula. The project included construction of a dividing embankment inside the reservoir to create two independently operating basins. Each basin was then lined, and floating covers were installed to protect the quality of the drinking water. During the works, the truck movements, in particular, had a heavy impact on the community. Through intensive and collaborative engagement, construction impacts were carefully managed and, as a result, there were no escalated complaints and the community was highly complimentary about the process. Dividing the basins has created a more robust operating network and, along with an improved cover design, reduced safety risks to operation and maintenance crews.

### Merri Creek Main Sewer Rehabilitation (early works)

Following a century of use, the old brick Merri Creek Main Sewer had deteriorated significantly, and rehabilitation works were needed to ensure it did not collapse. The early works took place in a number of locations, mainly along Merri Creek from north of Bell Street in Coburg to near St Georges Road in Brunswick. In addition to residents and road users, we actively consulted with visitors to the creek walking track and the Coburg Pine Ridge Cemetery because the creek runs close to the Elizabeth Street cemetery boundary. We were rigorous in keeping the community informed in advance of impacts such as deep excavations, tree removal and increased construction vehicle traffic.

### **Kananook Creek Retaining Wall Renewal June**

The Kananook Creek retaining wall works were necessary to repair the wall, provide stability for the creek bank and protect surrounding assets, including the pathway, road and drainage network. The works, between Wells Street and Beach Street, Frankston were delivered by the JHKBR JV. This was a difficult project with residents on Long Island struggling with construction fatigue from multiple large construction programs occurring at the same time in a relatively small area.

### **Dandenong Creek Levee Bank Upgrade**

Dandenong Creek is approximately 35km south-east from the Melbourne CBD. The east and west levees run along the creek traversing Keysborough South and Dandenong South. The area surrounding the site is mainly industrial with the Dandenong Creek Bike Trail running parallel to the creek. Melbourne Water undertook a review of the Lower Dandenong catchment flood modelling which revealed some sections of the East and West Levee Banks of the Dandenong Creek Perry Road and Eastlink Dandenong South were too low and did not provide the required 1 in 100 years flood protection to surrounding properties. The works included: tree removal along the levee, raising both embankments and resurfacing the shared pathway. As part of our work, we:

- consulted developers, who could not start their builds before completion of the levee bank and before establishing a lease agreement with Melbourne Water
- met regularly with the City of Greater Dandenong to help limit disruption and minimise confusion from overlapping projects in the area
- informed the community about the closure of the Dandenong Creek Trail to ensure the safety of shared path users and construction workers
- consulted with Kucci Park Kennels to minimise inconvenience and potential impacts from construction noise and dust.

### **Carlton Main Sewer Upgrade**

The Carlton main sewer transfers sewage from Carlton, Brunswick and the southern areas of Coburg to the Western Treatment Plant at Werribee. Upgrade work restored the, 114 year old, brick-lined tunnel to prevent collapse or blockage and enable it to cope with future demands. The relining of a section of the works used existing utility holes in the area, while the new section of sewer was tunnelled under the street some 10m below ground. All work took place within highly urbanised areas amid pedestrians, cyclists, high traffic volumes and public transport. Among the highlights of our work was the development of strong relationships with Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre and collaboration on urban art projects for onsite hoardings.

### **Retarding Basin Upgrades**

Melbourne water manages over 200 retarding basins across Greater Melbourne which reduce flooding by catching heavy rainfall and holding it in a reserved low lying area of land. Retarding basins are designed to meet national standards, protecting communities living near or downstream from them. Some basins provide other benefits to the community. When they are not full of water, they can be recreational areas for walking and playing, cycling and sporting activities. Other retarding basin sites are listed as sites of biological significance where important vegetation provides habitat for vulnerable or endangered species of reptiles, frogs or birds. When a retarding basin fills, the landscape is designed to hold back stormwater to reduce flood risk to local homes and businesses. The stored water is then slowly released into the downstream drain or waterway. Basin upgrades are required following risk assessments that indicate they do not meet current safety guidelines. Raising embankments and other works as part of retarding basin upgrades were undertaken to enhance the structural capacity and ensure the basins continued to operate safely. Each retarding basin and surrounding community is unique and presents distinct challenges for construction and engagement. We are proud of our work on these retarding basins and delivered to time and budget despite some extenuating circumstances.

### **Approach**

As communication and engagement leaders, we designed and implemented construction communication action plans to guide regular updates about project activities and impacts and inviting involvement from residents, landowners, businesses, community and sporting groups, dog owners, cyclists and pedestrians, road users and the wider community.

## Highlights

Among our achievements on these diverse projects was building strong relationships:

- with key stakeholders through extensive consultation to understand other local/competing priorities and ensure clear communication
- with residents and businesses immediately impacted by the works to consider their circumstances and particular requirements
- with users of the what have become active social spaces and the travelling public to ensure notice well in advance of construction impacts and disruption to traffic, regular services and access arrangements and enable quick and thorough resolution of any issues arising.

Through our targeted approach, Comacon enhanced Melbourne Water's reputation and brand within these communities.

## Contact

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