

The role of water in a healthy Melbourne.

The City of Melbourne is committed to practising integrated water cycle management.

The strategy; *Total Watermark - City as a Catchment*, adopts sustainable water management practices to build a healthy city in a healthy catchment.

Water sensitive cities interact with the urban water cycle in ways that provide the water security essential for economic prosperity. This is achieved through efficient use of fit-for-purpose water, enhancing and protecting the health of water in the environment. This mitigates flood risk and damage, creating public spaces that harvest, clean and recycle water.

A city's strategies and systems for water management contributes to biodiversity, carbon sequestration and reduction of urban heat island effects.

Fit-for-purpose use prioritises the appropriate quality of alternative water sources for different demands. The closer the match in the quality of the water to the level needed for end use, the less treatment is required, which is less energy intensive and more cost efficient.

Integrated water cycle management is coordinated management of all components of the water cycle including water consumption, rainwater, stormwater, wastewater and groundwater, to secure a range of benefits for the wider catchment.

City as a catchment is an approach supporting the creation of a water sensitive city. Our vision is of a healthy city in a healthy catchment. Seeing our city as a catchment means that we recognise the important role and linkages of the natural and man-made catchments.

There are four key areas of focus for the City of Melbourne in the Total Watermark Strategy:



Climate change impacts and adaptation
Taking measures to respond to the actual or expected changes in climate to minimise their impact. These measures reduce the vulnerability of the local natural and human systems (including water) to the effects of climate change by increasing the system's resilience to it.



Water for liveability
Improving and maintaining the wellbeing of our community through the many characteristics that contribute to making Melbourne a place where people want to live. This relates to economics, planning, health, community and development factors.



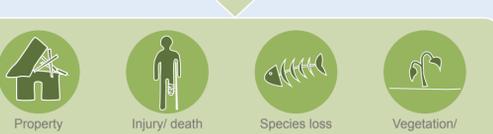
Water for the environment
Managing our key waterways (Yarra River, Maribyrnong River, Moonee Ponds Creek) and their current state/health. This links with green spaces.



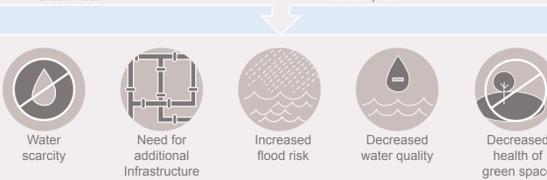
Water use and quality
Ensuring adequate fit-for-purpose water supply for everyone.

How is water management linked to...

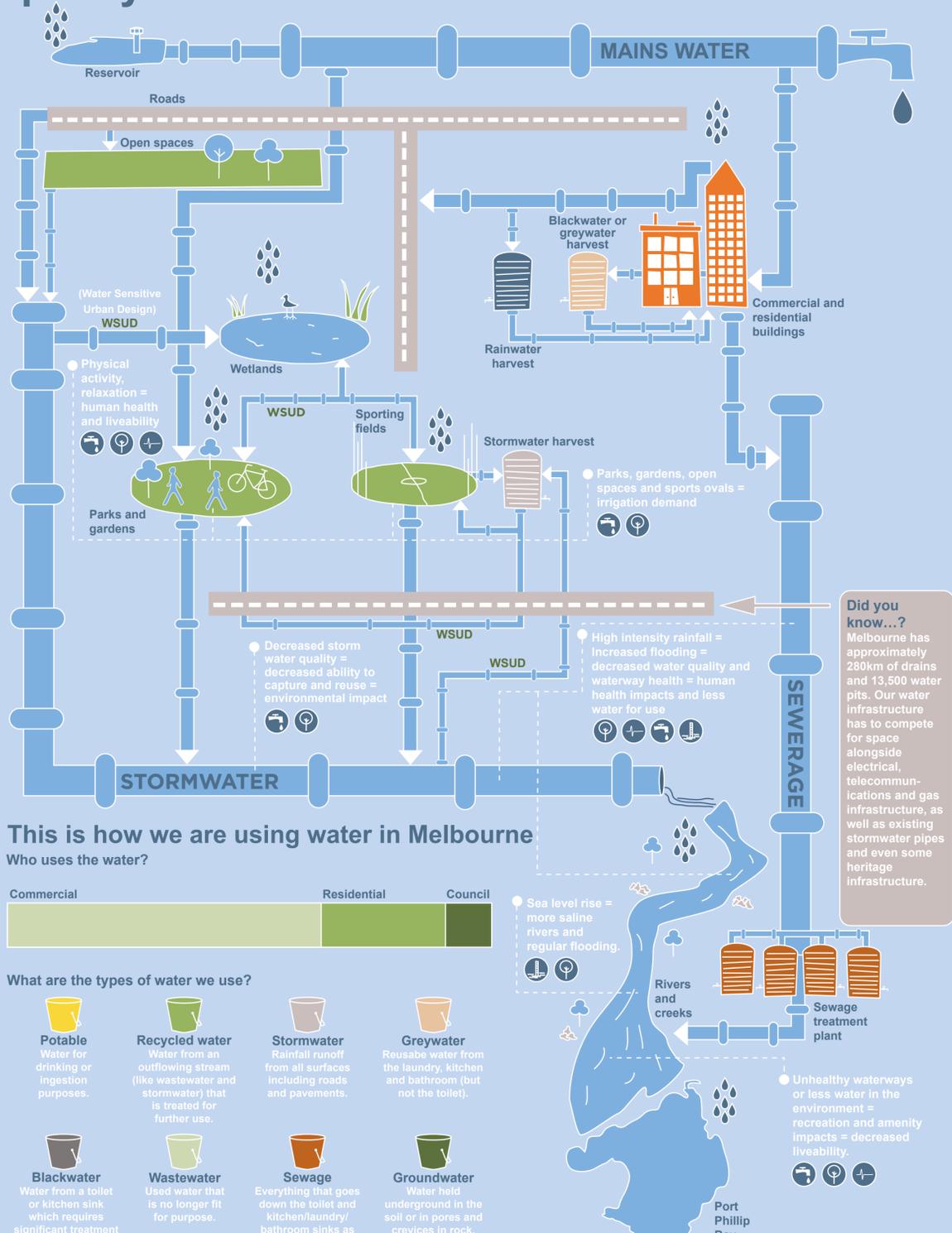
Climate change
The impact of climate change can affect the amount, quality and flow of Melbourne's water now and into the future which in turn affects our lives and the environment.



Health and liveability
To maintain health and liveability in Melbourne we must have clean, affordable water that is available for use by people and the environment.

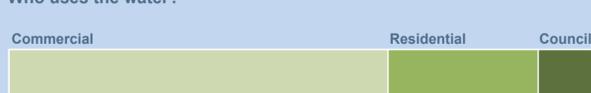


Melbourne's water system is complex with many components affecting the amount, quality and flow of water.



This is how we are using water in Melbourne

Who uses the water?



What are the types of water we use?

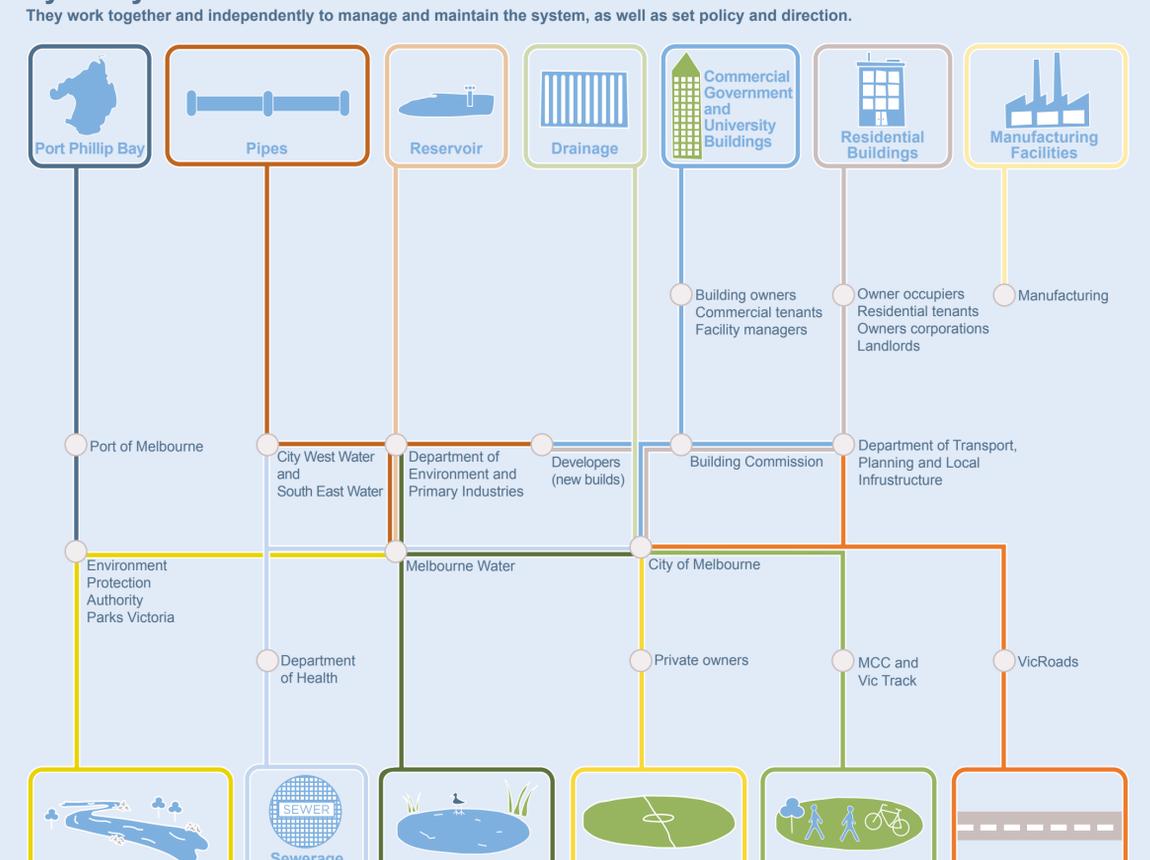
- Potable**: Water for drinking or ingestion purposes.
- Recycled water**: Water from an outflowing stream (like wastewater and stormwater) that is treated for further use.
- Stormwater**: Rainfall runoff from all surfaces including roads and pavements.
- Greywater**: Reusable water from the laundry, kitchen and bathroom (but not the toilet).
- Blackwater**: Water from a toilet or kitchen sink which requires significant treatment before reuse.
- Wastewater**: Used water that is no longer fit for purpose.
- Sewage**: Everything that goes down the toilet and kitchen/laundry/bathroom sinks as well as trade waste.
- Groundwater**: Water held underground in the soil or in pores and crevices in rock.

Working together to create a healthy city in a healthy catchment.



The infrastructure in Melbourne's water system is managed by many stakeholders.

They work together and independently to manage and maintain the system, as well as set policy and direction.



Sources
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