

# 621 Burwood Highway, Knoxfield

## Frequently Asked Questions

### The Proposed Wetland

#### Why isn't the dam being retained?

The current man-made dam has been assessed and deemed unfit for purpose. It is also unsafe for the public due to its steep and structurally unstable banks. Development Victoria intends to deliver a more vibrant waterway system to ensure the wetland is fit for purpose and safe for the local community to use.

#### Why isn't the dam retained in the Comprehensive Development Zone?

The Comprehensive Development Zone (CDZ) stipulates that Development Victoria must provide stormwater drainage and retardation, public open space and provide for enhanced flora and fauna in the area, marked WDRP. To achieve this, the existing dam will be repurposed into a new wetland to ensure it meets the requirements of the CDZ. It will be safe and provide stormwater treatment.

#### Why do you need to do anything with the dam?

A dam condition assessment report was conducted in July 2017. The report states that:

- The existing dam is in a fair to poor condition and therefore considered not fit for purpose.
- The dam is not able to manage moderate rainfall, leading to flooding.
- The dam is lacking the dense vegetation and reed beds necessary for successful breeding of the Blue-billed Duck.

The proposed new wetland will address these issues and significantly improve the available bird breeding habitat, with more dense vegetation and reed beds to be provided within both the treatment and habitat areas of the wetland. Attempting to maintain the existing dam poses several challenges. The best environmental outcomes will be achieved through the repurposing of the existing dam and the construction of a proposed new wetland system.

#### What is the proposed plan for the new wetland?

The proposed new, improved wetland would provide a better environmental outcome for the site. It will be safe for the community and will significantly improve the available breeding habitat for the endangered Blue-billed Duck and other species.

The proposed new wetland would provide:

- An enhanced habitat for the endangered Blue-billed Duck and other species, resulting in a better overall environmental outcome for residents of the area.
- An improvement to the water quality and available breeding habitat for local species through targeted planting which is currently absent at the existing dam.
- Dense vegetation and reed beds planted to encourage Blue-billed Duck breeding.
- A range of settling, sediment and water retention ponds to treat stormwater, mitigate flooding and protect Blind Creek.

- The new wetland will ensure the area is safe and not at risk of collapse which is a high possibility for the existing dam.
- A public pathway through the wetland to Blind Creek, creating a new recreational link to the area that is safe for people and wildlife.
- The potential for viewing platforms and informational signage on the types of vegetation incorporated and the wetland systems in use.

All works associated with the new wetland will be guided by technical experts.

### **Why is treated stormwater better for the wetland and Blind Creek?**

Treating the stormwater will improve the quality of the runoff flowing into the waterway by removing pollutants such as suspended solids, nitrogen, phosphorus, litter and heavy metals.

This will provide cleaner water which will allow for a wider range of plants and animals to live within the wetland and also within Blind Creek. It will also help to reduce the amount of pollutants being discharged into Port Phillip Bay, helping to improve the health of the Bay.

### **How will you build the new wetland?**

It is proposed that construction of the new wetland will occur in a staged manner, providing continual access to a waterbody for wildlife currently using the existing dam. This aims to reduce the impact on local flora and fauna, providing a habitat for their preservation throughout. This will be managed and overseen by technical experts.

### **What will happen to the Blue-billed Duck and other species during migration, and will wildlife be affected during construction of the new wetland?**

The proposed new wetland is expected to significantly improve the water quality, and in turn improve the available breeding and nesting habitat for the Blue-billed Duck. This breeding habitat is currently absent on site. The new wetland will provide a larger, healthier and safer waterbody for the Blue-billed Duck and other wildlife.

Staged construction will enable vegetation to be established in the new wetland prior to any works on the existing dam. This will also allow the wildlife currently using the existing dam to transition to the new wetland during the overall construction process.

It is proposed that once construction of the new open wetland at the northern end of the site is finished, technical experts will carefully relocate the flora and fauna from the current dam to the new wetland, where possible. Development Victoria will work closely with industry experts and the community where possible, to ensure the timing of construction and the establishment period is appropriate.

### **Does Development Victoria have any experience with developing wetlands?**

Development Victoria has a proven track record of delivering enhanced waterbodies which are now home to a range of flora and fauna including the threatened Blue-billed Duck. Our goal is to deliver a better overall environment outcome for the current man-made dam in Knox.

Development Victoria has delivered thriving, award-winning waterbodies in Epping, Officer, Cairnlea, Lynbrook and many other established communities in Victoria.

## Will the public be able to access the new wetland?

The draft Masterplan proposes a range of pathways and viewing platforms in the vicinity of the proposed new wetland. Subject to Council approval, these assets will be constructed enabling the community to enjoy the amenity they provide, while protecting the flora and fauna that will make the area their home. We will continue to work with you to refine these details over the coming months.

## Is there any contamination on the site?

Detailed studies have been undertaken by environmental scientists to understand the extent of any contamination on the site due to its former use as a Horticultural Research Centre and general agricultural uses which occurred from 1900s.

It was identified that the majority of the site is characterised as having a low or low to medium contamination risk. The site was deemed suitable for development for residential purposes and there is no danger to surrounding communities.

## Where can I find out more?

For more information about the project, community events or to provide feedback please contact Development Victoria at [knoxfield@development.vic.gov.au](mailto:knoxfield@development.vic.gov.au) and visit the project website at [development.vic.gov.au/knoxfield](http://development.vic.gov.au/knoxfield).

A dedicated 1800 number has been established which is available during weekday business hours. Get in touch to ask questions and provide feedback: **1800 659 116**.