

2. Elwood Canal

Flash flooding of the Elwood canal is a major local issue that requires joint action by the State government, Melbourne Water, Port Phillip Council and neighbouring Councils.

In February 2011 we suffered a major flood. (2010/11 was the wettest 2-year period on record). There have been similar floods in previous decades, and various interventions, especially the Head St diversion, have reduced incidences of flooding in Elwood.

Much of Elwood was formerly a swamp, a massive low lying sponge soaking up runoff from the 40km² Elster Creek catchment. Most of the catchment area is in Glen Eira, and also in Bayside and Kingston. When there is a major downpour, and especially when that rain falls close to high tide, the volume of water is not able to exit the canal, the lower reaches of which are tidal, until the tide in Port Phillip Bay falls. In the period around high tide, water backs up around the canal, around the drainage entry points into the canal, and around Melbourne Water's Byron Street main drain.

A significant issue is to reduce the flow of water by various water sensitive urban design measures, such as diversion of water into wetlands and other sites throughout the catchment. These, and other engineering solutions, would require support from Melbourne Water and the state government.

What is your position on the role of the state government to control flooding in Elwood?