
26 March 2026

Attn: Jessica Antolino
Senior Heritage Officer, Permits
Heritage Victoria

Project name: Western Trunk Sewer Rehabilitation Project
Project no: Permit Application P41177

Subject: Response to request for further information - Main Outfall Sewer H1932

Dear Jessica

In response to your request for further information dated 19 February 2026, please find information below addressing each of your enquiries.

The application proposes a shaft (WTS006) directly atop the location of the Main Outfall Sewer (MOS). Officers note the limited depth of heritage fabric in this area and require further clarity regarding how this shaft location will impact the MOS and what mitigation measures are proposed to limit impacts to the heritage place. This concern was also raised in the referral response from Wyndham City Council.

The location of the WTS006 shaft is shown on Figure 1.

Melbourne Water advises that when the Western Trunk Sewer (WTS) and Werribee Aqueduct were constructed in 2010, there were two direct interfaces between the WTS and the MOS. These are shown as "connection structures" on the as-built drawings (Figure 2), along with the locations where bulkheads were installed to safely manage the sewer flows at that time. When the WTS and Aqueduct were constructed, sections of the MOS were removed to enable clearance to the new asset. Figure 2 shows the locations of the structures and the sections of the MOS previously removed.

The construction contractor for the current rehabilitation project John Holland has advised that while the location of the shaft at WTS006 is in very close proximity to the MOS, the intactness of the MOS in this area is uncertain given previous works for the 2010 construction of the WTS. During the development phase of the project, John Holland reduced the footprint of this shaft to reduce the risk of a potential clash with what possibly remains of the MOS at this location. Shaft WTS006 is now the smallest possible size which still allows the pipes for the rehabilitation to fit.

While the previous construction works have most likely removed all parts of the MOS (as evidenced in Figures 4 and 5), there remains a low potential for a small section of the MOS to be present and require removal as illustrated in Figure 3.

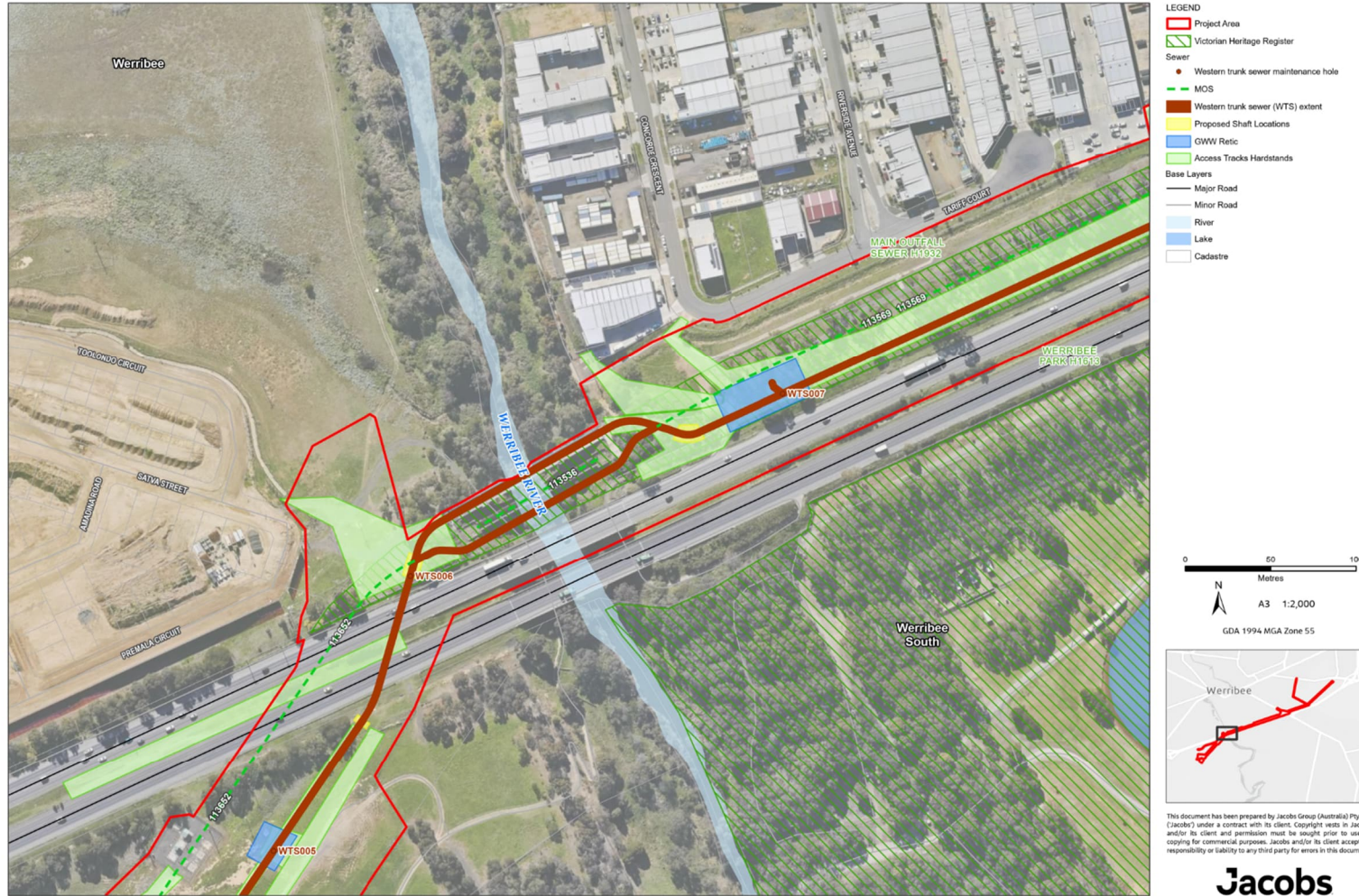
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Proposed Western Trunk Sewer Rehabilitation Works Locations



IA5000TY

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Figure 1. Overview of the location of the proposed shaft location at WTS006

Figure 4 is imagery from during the installation of the WTS Aqueduct, and shows the extent of area exposed during the construction in 2010, with the location of the proposed WTS006 shaft and the approximate location of the remaining sections of the MOS marked. While this image does not show the full detail of the disturbance which occurred at the direct interface of the MOS and the 2010 construction, Figure 5 indicates that a substantial excavator was positioned in this location during construction, and is highly likely to have removed evidence of the MOS at the point of intersection.



Figure 4. Image during construction of WTS, showing the proposed location of WTS006 shaft (blue square) and the approximate location of the possible remainder of the MOS (red lines) not removed during WTS construction

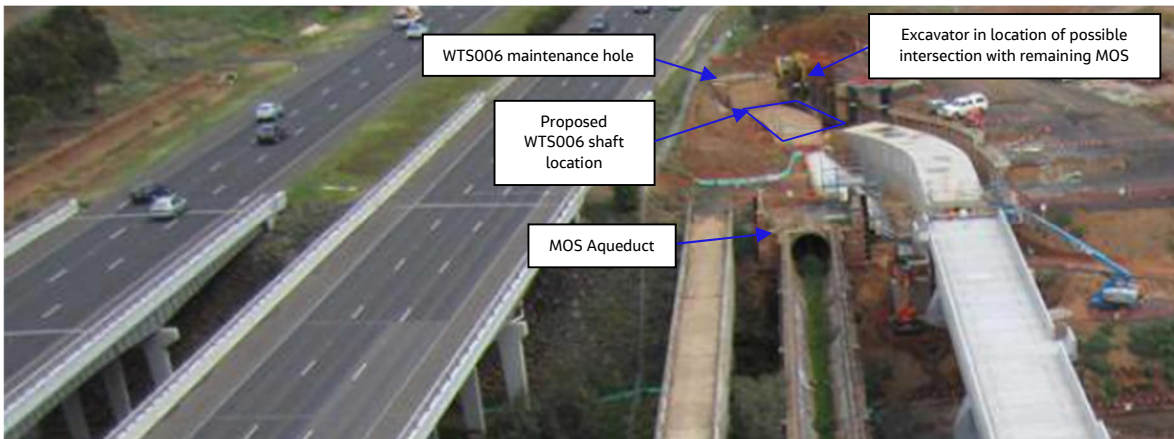


Figure 5. Aerial view of WTS works at intersection with MOS in 2010, with approximate location of proposed WTS006 shaft outlined in blue square

The shaft construction method involves the drilling of holes around the perimeter of the shaft (along the blue lines) spaced about 1.5 metres apart, and driving posts into the ground from the surface, before excavation of the interior of the shaft. Non-destructive digging (NDD) would be used as part of services location prior to this occurring, and this would identify whether or not there is a structure or feature in the intersecting corner of the shaft. However, this would not be able to identify whether it was the MOS or not, given the tightness of the area and the inability to clearly open up what may be a very small area of intersection.

While it is likely there are no remains of the MOS in the location of the WTS006 shaft, there is still some low potential for the shaft to intersect a small remaining section of the MOS. The proposed shaft has been reduced as much as feasibly possible to reduce the potential for intersection with the MOS. If the remains of the MOS are still in this location, these would be required to be removed as part of the excavation of the WTS006 shaft. While there is the potential to impact on and require the removal of some fabric of the MOS, it is in a location where the MOS has already been removed and/or damaged due to the 2010 construction of the WTS, and would have very little or no impact on the overall heritage significance of the place.

Proposed interpretation of the MOS.

The following information is noted in the initial permit application in Section 4.1.5 *Public Access and Interpretation* of the Heritage Impact Statement:

The project provides an opportunity for a positive impact on the cultural heritage significance of the MOS through increased knowledge and information, with the ability for increased public access (where the MOS is backfilled for safety), and for additional heritage interpretation. The Multiple Benefits Action Plan prepared for the project has identified two key actions of direct relevance to the heritage place, including backfilling of the MOS (Action 3) to allow for future public open space for a variety of community benefits, and the development of a Werribee River Activity Node (Action 4) to allow for increased recognition of heritage values and tourism opportunities. This Plan is currently at the Development Phase of the project with further development of the actions to be carried out in the Delivery Phase. The future development of the Plan will include an analysis of existing heritage interpretation related to the MOS, and a project specific interpretation plan as to how this could be improved or further developed as part of this project.

As part of the construction contract, the further development of the Multiple Benefits Action Plan outcomes will be developed as a masterplanning exercise by John Holland, similar to the previous Greening the Pipeline plan already implemented in another location along the MOS (see <https://www.melbournewater.com.au/services/projects/greening-pipeline>). A historical heritage

interpretation plan related to the MOS would be prepared by Jacobs to inform and be appended to the masterplan. The interpretation plan would identify key historical themes, proposed types of media to be used (eg signage, trails, QR codes), and include engagement with relevant stakeholders. It is proposed that the preparation of the masterplan by John Holland, and the historical heritage interpretation plan by Jacobs would be undertaken during the rehabilitation works. This would be submitted to Heritage Victoria for endorsement by the Executive Director during the project construction. The implementation of the masterplan and the heritage interpretation plan would be the responsibility of Melbourne Water after completion of the rehabilitation project, and would be subject to integration with the existing Greening the Pipeline project.

Clarity on how areas where the MOS is exposed or shown by mounding in the proposed works area is to be impacted and reinstated as a result of the works.

There are no sections of the MOS within the project area which are exposed/open, with the exception of the Original Werribee River Aqueduct which will be untouched by the project; all sections are below the current ground surface. Similarly there is no mounding over the top of the MOS within the project area. The mound that can be seen in the project area within the VHR place, is associated with the WTS, and not the MOS. As such there would be no impact on any surface evidence of the MOS, and therefore no reinstatement required.

Should you require clarification of the information provided above, we would be happy to meet to discuss with Heritage Victoria.

Kind regards



Dr Karen Murphy

Technical Director, Archaeology and Cultural Heritage