



Minister for Water

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Cr Tim Laurence
Mayor
City of Darebin
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29 JUL 2013

Dear Cr Laurence

MEDIAN STRIP ON CHEDDAR ROAD, RESERVOIR

Thank you for your letter dated 26 June 2013 regarding the median strip on Cheddar Road, Reservoir.

Melbourne Water (MW) has advised that the Cheddar Road median strip in Reservoir is a MW pipe reserve. The reserve contains MW's 2100mm Winneke-Preston main, Yarra Valley Water's (YVW) 900mm Morang-Preston main and disused MW mains, including mains associated with Melbourne's earliest water supply system (Yan Yean).

MW acknowledges that Darebin Council aims to improve amenity along Cheddar Road. It is concerned, however, that planting trees would impact the primary function of the land and its ability to fulfil its water supply responsibilities. It is critical that the Cheddar Road pipe reserve is managed in a way that does not place this critical water supply main at risk, restrict access for inspection and maintenance or impede MW's ability to undertake future works.

MW has advised that any plantings within the Cheddar Road pipe reserve have the potential to cause damage to the active Winneke-Preston main. Tree roots can damage the pipe's protective coating, which can in turn significantly reduce the life of a very expensive and critical asset. Also, trees can inhibit the ability to inspect the main, and restrict access for maintenance and the ability to carry out future main replacement works.

MW must always be mindful of the primary function of its land and its legislative responsibilities. Allowing land to be used for secondary functions can have significant impacts on the land, the assets and services. Careful planning and sound management practices are required to ensure that any permitted use of MW land does not compromise these.

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In principle, MW is supportive of the use of its land (except restricted areas) by Local and State government authorities, and community-based clubs for community recreational activities and appropriate secondary purposes; recognising the important role the land plays in providing liveability benefits for Greater Melbourne.

I encourage you to further discuss the management of MW land within your municipality, and alternative ways the council proposes to achieve improved amenity while ensuring that the pipe reserve continues to fulfil its primary purpose as a reserve containing critical water supply assets. Mr Martin Stern, Regional Communications and Engagement Manager North East at MW can be contacted on 9679 7724.

Thank you again for raising this matter with me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Walsh', written in a cursive style.

PETER WALSH MLA
Minister for Water