Embracing Collaboration for Better Solutions – A Case Study for Flood Mitigation in Arden-Macaulay

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Imagine the possibilities when leading organisations and universities from across the world and the city come together to create innovative approaches to flood management. Imagine if we actively engaged beyond our own municipal boundaries to address local flood problems.

City of Melbourne was fortunate to be selected as one of four pilot cities to participate in the City Solutions Platform, an initiative of the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, Danish Cleantech cluster CLEAN, and the International Cleantech Network launched to accelerate the development of climate solutions and support cities in adapting to climate change by facilitating early engagement between cities and solution providers.

Arden-Macaulay is a key inner city urban renewal area that is projected to accommodate 25,000 residents and 43,500 workers by 2051. Arden-Macaulay will feature the new Arden underground Metro Station, which is scheduled to open in 2026. Flooding is a serious issue in Arden-Macaulay and addressing it will be crucial to the viability of the precinct, especially when the long term changes to climate are factored in.

Through the City Solutions Platform, Council worked with 27 solution providers, made up of consultants, universities and other agencies to address three design questions.

1. How might we challenge the levee design so that we improve the public realm and provide benefits to the community who live there?
2. How might we integrate a flood mitigation solution into the private and public realm so that we achieve multiple benefits?
3. How might we embrace water in the precinct so that it becomes a unique and educative place to visit, live and work in?

Further to the City Solutions Platform, City of Melbourne have engaged with neighbouring councils to see how upstream storage (within the cities of Moreland and Moonee Valley) could mitigate flood impacts and potentially reduce the need to raise the height and length of levees downstream.

This presentation will showcase how partnerships and collaboration have allowed for more innovative solutions to increase resilience and improve liveability.