

Winifred Street Flood Improvement Project Q&A

Properties in Brownhill and Winifred Streets, Mundingburra, are prone to flooding due to limited drainage capacity in the area. Several low points in the area drain to the Ross River through pipe systems, but when these pipes reach capacity, water can pool and spread to other low-lying areas. Council is planning to install additional stormwater infrastructure to increase flow to the Ross River. This upgrade will help reduce overflow and provide benefits for nearby properties and the wider suburb including Tertius Street, Kane Street and Love Lane.

Q: When was the Winifred Street stormwater system last inspected?

The underground network was originally inspected in 2015 where defects were noted. Further investigations took place in 2021 to try and address the drainage issues and determine if the system could be improved, including remedying pipe intrusions to prevent future blockages. The stormwater pipe system south of Brownhill Street will be exposed as part of upcoming works, which creates another opportunity for Council to inspect the pipes and clean them prior to the upcoming wet season.

Q: What will the diversion pathway be?

A diversion pathway is needed to keep pedestrians safely separated from construction traffic. The temporary path will run alongside the boundary of property #38 to minimise disruption for pathway users. Fencing with screening will be installed along this boundary to maintain privacy for the resident.

Q: Is there a risk that placing crushed rock in the low-lying area could redirect water toward houses? Will the rock be removed once the work is complete?

A rock hardstand has been installed between the work site and property #38 to provide space for storing materials and trucks to turn safely. Any water flow will be managed within the site, with a sump installed at the lowest point to collect water. Once this stage of work is finished, all temporary structures, including the rock, will be removed. The area will then be reshaped and replanted to look as it did before.

Q: Why have pipes been moved around?

The pipes were temporarily moved to allow construction vehicles to pass through the site, as their original position made this difficult. Once the ground improvement works are complete, the pipes can be relocated to a preferred position.

Q: What is the construction sequence and how will it impact residents?

Stage 1 involved reconstruction works at the intersection of Winifred Street and Love Lane to remedy the infrastructure that was pierced by another essential service. Works were completed in August 2025. Stage 2 is preparation work for the stormwater outlet at the Ross River. The outlet needs to be stabilised over a period before the headwall may be installed in Stage 3. Stage 3 is the final stage involving the installation of the duplicate line from Brownhill Street to the Ross River. This work will affect all residents within the project area. Revegetation and reinstatement of all disturbed areas will occur after the stormwater works are complete.

Q: Are backflow prevention measures, such as a one-way valve, being considered?

The outlet sits above the Highest Astronomical Tide, so it should flow freely for most of the year and won't hold water more often than residents already experience. A non-return valve/flap could create ongoing maintenance issues, such as blockages, the valve getting stuck open and/or acoustic ringing through the pipes.

Q: How will drainage from the open space be managed?

A new field inlet pit is being installed as part of this project at the natural low point adjacent #38 and it will directly connect to the new parallel underground drainage system.

Q: What pavement (road surface) work is to be undertaken?

Council will improve the road surface across the project area. This includes fully rebuilding the section over the new pipe and the balance of the roadway will be lightly resurfaced to smooth and strengthen it. Portions of Winifred Street outside of the project areas such as Swales Street to Love Lane and Love Lane to Brownhill Street will not have work done to them under this project.

Q: How will the kerb be affected?

Some sections of the kerb are being replaced as part of this project, particularly near the new kerb inlet pits to ensure channel flows are directed to the stormwater capture locations and a portion alongside the park area.

Q: How many additional stormwater drainage pits are being installed?

A total of 7 new inlet structures will be added to the existing network.