

## Project status

### Where is the project up to?

Council is continuing with planning work for the construction of a sewerage scheme for Stuarts Point, Fishermans Reach and Grassy Head. The project will involve the construction of a pressure sewer system to service approximately 600 properties, a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) to collect and treat the sewage, and a dunal discharge for the release of treated wastewater (similar to South West Rocks).

Planning and construction of the Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme is complex and requires State Government environmental and planning consent for a State Significant Development (SSD). This involves the preparation and public exhibition of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Tenders for the EIS have been called and the award of contract is planned for the end of August 2023. The study is expected to be finalised for submission and public exhibition by December 2024.

Fieldwork for the EIS is scheduled to start in September 2023 and staff are likely to be visible within the local community during surveys and observations.

While this work is happening the project team will continue with:

- Detailed design of the scheme, the WWTP and dunal discharge.
- Auditing and property designs for all properties and including the hydraulic and civil design for the pressure sewer network.

### What is the new project timeframe?

We are working towards having planning, approvals, construction, and property connections completed with the scheme fully commissioned in 2026. Updated scheme milestone dates will be available soon, once the timeline for the EIS can be verified and included in the project plan.

### Will the sewerage scheme cater for growth in the area and additional people during peak holiday season?

The design of the treatment plant and network allows for existing properties, potential development, and peak holiday loading from places such as the holiday parks and other local accommodation facilities.

### Where can I find out more information?

The project team will regularly attend community meetings and as the project progresses, there will be a project office on site where you can visit and ask questions. You can also:

- Visit Council's website [kempsey.nsw.gov.au/Your-Valley/Ongoing-works-in-the-shire/Major-projects/Stuarts-Point-Sewerage-Scheme](https://kempsey.nsw.gov.au/Your-Valley/Ongoing-works-in-the-shire/Major-projects/Stuarts-Point-Sewerage-Scheme).
- Call (02) 6566 3200.
- Email [ksc@kempsey.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ksc@kempsey.nsw.gov.au).

## Sewerage scheme details

### **How does a pressure sewer scheme work?**

The pressure sewer system is made up of an underground tank and pump at each property which collects sewage and discharges it through a network of pressure pipes to the treatment facility. Once installed, the only visible part of the system on the property will be a boundary kit, tank lid and pump control panel. More information on pressure sewer systems is available on Councils' website.

### **Where will the network pipes be located?**

Generally, pressure sewer mains are located within road reserves and it will be the responsibility of the network contractor to locate all existing services, confirm suitability of pipe location and install the mains accordingly.

### **Where will the new wastewater treatment plant be located?**

Council have acquired a vacant site near Stuarts Point, north of the existing waste transfer station on Fishermans Reach Rd as the site for the proposed new wastewater treatment plant.

### **How will the potential odour from the proposed treatment plant be managed by Council?**

Air pollution in NSW is regulated in accordance with the Protection of the Environment Operations Act (POEO Act) 1997. The design of the treatment facility and its location will be subject to this regulation, with setbacks from nearby residents included in the design. Odour management is also a key design factor for both the scheme and treatment facility which aims to mitigate the impact of sewage odour.

### **Where will the treated wastewater be discharged?**

Council has worked closely with the NSW Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) Water to determine the best solution and propose a dunal discharge diffuser which is the same as the system at South West Rocks.

### **Where will the discharge point be located?**

It is proposed that the dunal discharge point will be located between Macleay Arm and the ocean, north east of Kimpton Street. The concept design and construction phases will manage impacts on the surrounding environment and will be reviewed by the relevant government agencies as part of the approval process.

## Property connections

### **Will my property be connected to sewer?**

If you are within the sewer service catchment for either of the three villages, your property will be connected to sewer and will be liable for annual Council sewerage service charges.

### **What is the expected cost to property owners for the installation of the sewerage scheme?**

Council will cover the cost associated with the pressure sewer system installation, however, each property will require an audit to assess the extent of work required. Each property within the scheme will have a pressure sewer unit installed and work will include the redirection of all property drains to the pressure sewer unit.

Works will be carried out to comply with AS 3000 Electrical Wiring Rules and AS 3500 Australian Plumbing and Drainage Standard.

Once connected, the existing septic tank/onsite treatment system will be decommissioned by Council. This will include site restoration.

### **Where is power for the pressure units supplied from?**

Power will be supplied from the electrical switchboard of the house. Works to connect will be completed as part of the pressure sewer installation by Council.

### **Where will the pressure sewer unit be located on my property?**

This depends on the layout of your property. The collection tank will be installed in a suitable location where it can be accessed easily for maintenance and provides the best outcome for the property. The pressure sewer unit is usually installed near the existing septic tank, however, property owners will be consulted during site audits to assess individual circumstances that need to be considered for the design at each property.

### **What will the impacts be during construction?**

Council will endeavor to minimise the impact of construction on the community wherever possible, however, the construction of this large project will be disruptive at times. Construction activities will be planned to minimise impacts on businesses and residents with the pressure sewer pipework likely to be installed using horizontal boring techniques that have minimal local impact.

## **Operating the system**

### **Who will maintain the pressure sewer system?**

Council will operate and maintain the pressure sewer system.

### **What sewer access charges will be applicable over the project delivery timeframe?**

The annual septic charge listed within Council's Fees and Charges will be applied during construction of the scheme, with the sewer service and availability charge to apply once the scheme is completed.

Council's Fees and Charges are reviewed annually with information available on Council's website.

**What is the average yearly electrical cost to operate a unit servicing the typical single-family home? What is the length of operation per day?**

A typical home discharges approximately 450 litres of waste to the sewer. Typically, the 0.75kw pump will operate between 10 to 20 minutes per day and, for an average property, this equates to electricity consumption of around 70 kilowatts per annum (or \$35.00 per annum if the unit cost of general power is \$0.50 per kilowatt hour).

**How noisy is the pressure sewer pump?**

The pump is located at the bottom of the collection tank which is below ground and generally 2 metres deep. The grinder pump emits a low pitch humming noise that is audible when standing at the tank and barely noticeable at 5 metres distance.

**What if the power goes out or if the pump fails?**

The pressure sewer unit provides emergency storage for approximately 24 hours. If the power goes out or the pump fails, upon resumption of power supply the pump control panel alarm warning light will activate and an audible buzzer will sound. The buzzer can be muted manually or will turn off after 10 minutes, with the light remaining active until the alarm condition is cleared. If an outage lasts longer than an hour, and the alarm is still active, you will need to contact Council and report the fault. This information is provided in the home owner's manual that will be provided to each resident at the time of commissioning and is also available on the Kempsey Shire Council website.