

STUARTS POINT SEWER SCHEME – PROJECT UPDATE

MAY 2022

Kempsey Shire Council has been granted \$6.63 million in funding to help construct the Stuarts Point Sewer Scheme under the NSW Government's Regional Water and Waste Water Backlog Program. Council will fund the remaining cost of the project delivery.

It is a priority in Council's forward program to provide and enhance sewerage infrastructure in Kempsey Shire.

Benefits

The Stuarts Point Sewer Scheme will improve public health by eliminating odours and water quality issues associated with on-site sewage management systems. These arise from the area's shallow groundwater table and systems operating with only small effluent disposal areas.

Once complete, the scheme will also improve sustainability for Stuarts Point, Grassy Head and Fishermans Reach by:

- increasing the area's attractiveness and improving amenity for permanent residents
- improving commercial and tourism opportunities
- providing future development opportunities.

Many houses in Stuarts Point and surrounds are about 40 years old and their sewerage systems do not meet today's standards for treatment quality and treatment sizing. Construction of a sewerage scheme means these properties will avoid the significant costs of bringing their individual systems up to modern standards.

It is anticipated that the sewerage scheme will improve property values in the area based on increased land value, help the area cater for visitor populations in caravan parks and allow for additional property development. The scheme is also anticipated to significantly improve conditions and operations for oyster growers in the area.

Status

The project is currently in the design and investigation phase. NSW Crown Lands recently issued a conditional permit to undertake field studies at the wastewater treatment plant site to the south of Stuarts Point and the dunal treated effluent discharge area on the eastern side of the Macleay Arm.

In conjunction with Council, Pressure System Solutions recently completed a masterplan study of the scheme. The study comprised a review of the current villages and identified future development sites to provide a hydraulic network solution that meets existing requirements and allows for future residential and industrial developments in the scheme area.

The masterplan study provides a concept design that is available for the current network and a planning tool for use when assessing the impact of future developments as they evolve.

Information derived from the network modelling has formed the basis of the concept design flows and capacities for the wastewater treatment plant.

Council's consultant, GHD, has been working on the concept design, which is 90% complete and is awaiting geotechnical information to complete hydraulic profiling in the plant.



In addition, studies have begun on the Review of Environmental Factors, site surveys and geotechnical investigations at the site of the wastewater treatment plant and dunal discharge. These are scheduled for completion by the end of May 2022. This is behind schedule due to Council waiting on permissions from other government agencies to begin this work.

As part of the design and investigation phase, Council is required to work within the regulatory and approval pathway of the NSW Government. Projects such as the Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme are complex in nature and it is critical that the project is well planned and designed to provide a sound outcome for Council and the community.

Council is close to securing the necessary land required for the wastewater treatment plant. This land has been subject to an undetermined Aboriginal land claim, which has required Council to seek to resolve this claim to acquire the land. This has been a time-consuming but unavoidable process as there are no other suitable sites for the treatment plant in the area. This claim has been resolved, and Council is now undertaking steps to acquire the land from the Crown.

When will works begin?

An expression of interest for tenders is planned to be issued in 2022-23, subject to Council obtaining necessary approvals.

Once a successful tenderer is selected, they will complete detailed design work before on-site work begins.

When will connection be possible?

Connection of properties is planned to commence from early 2024, subject to the successful contractor's design and construction program.

As outlined above, the project is complex in nature and if there is any change to this timeframe Council will proactively communicate this to the community.

More information

Visit Council's website at ksc.pub/Stuarts-Point-scheme

