

STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME – CONSULTATION REPORT TO INFORM EIS

MARCH 2024

STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME

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Introduction

Kempsey Shire Council (Council) is proposing to construct a new modern and reliable means of disposing sewage for the villages of Stuarts Point, Grassy Head and Fishermans Reach.

The Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme (the Scheme) is an essential project for Council to meet the current deficiencies associated with the existing on-site sewage management systems (OSMS) in these areas.

The scheme will support the local economy by limiting OSMS impact on public health and protecting the environment for sensitive land use including oyster growing and professional fishing within the Macleay Arm Estuary system.

Benefits for Council and the communities of Stuarts Point, Grassy Head and Fishermans Reach:

- **Environmental impact:** The existing OSMS are unsuitable and unsustainable, many have a history of failure leading to groundwater contamination. This situation is exacerbated by the influx of tourists and holiday makers during peak holiday times. The *Water Sharing Plan for the Stuarts Point Groundwater Source (2003)* identifies septic tanks as contamination sources. By replacing OSMS with a centralised pressure sewerage system will eliminate this major cause of groundwater contamination.
- **Public health:** Water quality of the aquifer will be improved by eliminating OSMS leading to improved public health outcomes for commercial and recreational fishing and aquaculture, local residents, tourists and holiday makers particularly in times of high rainfall and run off events.
- **Regional development and growth constraint:** The area is in a desirable coastal / estuarine position and includes large areas of appropriately zoned lands (RU5 Village in the *Kempsey Local Environmental Plan 2013*). The construction of a centralised sewerage scheme will remove major constraints to development and promote economic growth and residential development opportunities within the area.

Stuarts Point is a priority growth area in the Kempsey Shire and is constrained by the lack of adequate sewage and wastewater management infrastructure limiting the growth of housing and business opportunities within Stuarts Point and surrounding areas.

The project includes the construction of:

- pressure sewer network to service 541 existing properties,
- property connection systems to connect properties to the pressure sewer network,
- 5300 EP Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to treat the sewage and
- 3km treated effluent pipeline and dunal discharge for the release of treated effluent.

The Scheme is a State Significant Development (SSD) and requires state government environmental and planning consent involving the preparation and public exhibition of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prior to commencement.

The Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) has been received for the project following submission of the project Scoping Report in March 2023. The SEARs provide an outline for consultation needed during the preparation of the EIS. Council must



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consult with the relevant local, state or Commonwealth Government authorities, service providers, community groups and affected landowners and ensure that all consultation undertaken is documented in the EIS, and as a minimum, consult with:

- Registered Aboriginal Parties
- NSW Fire and Rescue
- NSW DPI Fisheries
- NSW Environment Protection Authority
- DPE Water
- DPI Agriculture
- NSW Crown Lands
- NSW Local Land Services
- Transport for NSW (including NSW Maritime)
- Kempsey Local Aboriginal Land Council
- DPE Biodiversity and Conservation Division
- NSW SES
- NSW RFS
- Heritage NSW
- Water NSW

In addition, those listed in the SEARs, the following agencies will also be consulted:

- Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Housing (DPHI)
- Department of Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water (DCCEEW)
- Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR)
- NSW Department of Health, National Parks, and Wildlife Service (NPWS)

The EIS must detail the engagement undertaken and demonstrate how it was consistent with the Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects 2022 and detail how issues raised and feedback provided have been considered and responded to during the EIS.

Ramboll has been engaged to complete the EIS including the consultation with the specific stakeholders outlined above. Council led the consultation with community and landowners.

Community and landowner consultation to inform the EIS

Council developed a Consultation Strategy to inform the development of the EIS and this document summarises the consultation activities and feedback heard. The strategy included:

- engagement activities to be undertaken to meet the SEARs requirements,
- methods of informing the community about the opportunities to provide feedback about the Scheme,
- what level influence engagement will have by identifying what elements require change arising from community feedback,
- opportunities for the community to voice their concerns or share local knowledge and
- how feedback will be considered as part of the EIS development.



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The purpose of the consultation was to allow stakeholders to:

- seek clarification about the project and its impacts,
- provide timely feedback about aspects of the project which they support, do not support or wish to be amended and
- provide clear reasons for any concerns to enable the proponent to consider possible alternative approaches to address the issues.

The output is a consultation report which summarises activities undertaken, participation and feedback received.

Consultation objectives

The objectives for the consultation were to support and inform the development of an EIS for the proposed development and align NSW Government guidelines to:

- provide clear and concise information about the project and its impacts,
- implement activities that encourage and facilitate participation,
- ensure interested community and stakeholder groups are aware of the consultation process,
- provide a range of opportunities for community and stakeholder groups to give feedback about the proposed development and
- report back on what was heard, what has or hasn't changed and why.

The methodology of the consultation activities has been guided by the NSW guidelines for proportionate engagement to prevent consultation fatigue and keep costs and time impacts to reasonable levels while remaining meaningful.

Proportionate engagement relates to the:

- scale and likely impacts of the project.
- geographic reach of engagement.
- number of activities (including the number of tailored activities, for specific groups).
- stages of engagement.

Applying this approach, the consultation activities were straightforward but broad reaching to encourage feedback from interested stakeholders. Participants could interact with a single activity or multiple activities, depending on their level of interest.

There was a six-week consultation period from Monday 6 November 2023 to Friday 22 December 2023.

Communication activities

A community update was delivered via Australia Post's unaddressed mail to 578 mailboxes and PO boxes in the Stuarts Point, Fishermans Reach and Grassy Head post code*. The update included the latest project information, maps of the scheme area, details of the community sessions and a QR code linking through the project web page. The project web page is the hub for all documents and updates including:

- previous community updates
- frequently asked questions
- pressure sewer scheme homeowner's manual



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- maps of the scheme and dunal discharge area
- project history
- current consultation activities - during the consultation period there was also a link to the project survey.

In addition, ratepayers that are not residents were sent a letter and a community update to the postal address on file for rates notices.

The community information sessions were also set up as Facebook events to help raise awareness of the different dates/times available. A project video was also uploaded on the project website and share on social media.

Council has weekly advertising in the local newspaper, the Macleay Argus, and the sessions were included the Friday 10 November edition.

**Note: Some community members commented that they had not received a copy and Australia Post was advised accordingly.*

See Appendix A for a copy of the materials.



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Engagement snapshot

Engagement activities aimed to capture feedback about any issues, both positive or negative, surrounding the Scheme with findings to be incorporated into the EIS and Social Impact Assessment (SIA) process. All engagement activities were promoted via mail and online methods.



Information Session

There were four in-person sessions held over two days at Stuarts Point Community Hall. Materials provided included maps, FAQs, homeowner's manuals, SIA info sheet, surveys and a render of the WWTP design.

A total of 46 community members attended the sessions, raising concerns about costs, affordability, location of infrastructure, retaining current septic tanks, appearance of the system, dunal discharge and the likelihood of the scheme proceeding. Unrelated questions were submitted to Kempsey Shire Council via the customer request forms.

Virtual Information Session

Three virtual sessions were scheduled, but only one took place due to lack of registrations.

Topics/questions raised included pipeline/property work process, shared usage of pods/pressured holding tanks, use of current septic tanks and responsibilities of property owners. These questions were addressed by the project team and documented in FAQs.

Survey Outcomes

A survey was open from 7 November to 22 December 2023. It was available online and in hard copy. A total of 44 survey participants, with an 80% completion rate and an average time spent of six minutes.

Participants were mainly property owners (80%) and/or local residents (61%)

Top priorities for participants living in the area included:

- recreation opportunities (93%)
- community/family (64%)
- local history (40%).

Key benefits of the Scheme were:

- removing groundwater contamination (64%)
- having a modern sewerage system (54%)
- addressing septic system issues during flooding (51%).

Main concerns about the Scheme included:

- ongoing sewerage service costs (77%)
- water quality, groundwater and waterways (69%)
- how the scheme will work (51%).



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Community Information Session Summary

Purpose: To provide more detailed information to interested residents and business owners and answer questions.

Description: Project team members were available at an easy to access location, Stuarts Point Community Hall, and interested people could drop by at any time within the time slots provided. There were also virtual information sessions for those unable to attend face to face.

There was a range of materials available including maps of the scheme area, frequently asked questions, homeowner's manuals, and a render of the WWTP design. Hard copy surveys were also available to be completed at the sessions or they could be returned to Stuarts Point library at any time. Further information about the survey is available in the next section.

Four in-person sessions were held over two days on Wednesday 22 and Thursday 23 November 2023 at the Stuarts Point Community Hall. The schedule was:

- Wednesday 22 November, Session 1: 12noon to 2pm and Session 2: 3:30pm to 5:30pm
- Thursday 23 November, Session 3: 9am to 11am and Session 4: 1pm to 3pm

Note: The community dropped in from 12- 5:30pm on 22 November and 9am – 3pm on 23 November. The team remained on site throughout and spoke to the community outside the scheduled hours. For future sessions we will take this into consideration.

Project team

- Bill Dubelaar: Lead Project Engineer
- Kate Baartz: Communications and Engagement
- Ash Soanes: Communications and Engagement
- Wes Trotter: Utilities Director (attended the 23 November afternoon session.)

In total, 46 community members attended the sessions over the two days. Questions raised at these sessions have been added to the frequently asked questions and will be updated and made available on the project website.

Common questions/issues

- Costs associated with sewerage service fees.
- Affordability for local residents.
- Location of the new sewage service infrastructure on individual properties.
- Retaining current septic tank due to not having any issues.
- Appearance of the sewerage system and what the pump will look like.
- Location and function of the dunal discharge.
- Likelihood of the scheme proceeding, given the long history of the project.

Attendees raised concerns about the ongoing cost to household to operate the system, affordability and the impact on their lives. We advised there was an SIA being completed as



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part of the EIS and provided contact information for Ramboll/APP who are completing the SIA.

Questions unrelated to the project, such as those about the special rate variation, drainage, kerb and guttering, were captured on customer request forms and submitted to Council on the community members' behalf.

Virtual Information Session

There were three scheduled virtual information sessions via MS Teams, with registrations required. Only one went ahead as there were no registrations for two of the sessions as shown below:

- Wednesday 15 November 5.30pm to 6.15pm – cancelled
- Wednesday 22 November 6.30pm to 7.15pm – four attendees
- Wednesday 6 December 8am to 8.45am - cancelled

Project team

- Bill Dubelaar: Lead Project Engineer
- Kate Baartz: Communications and Engagement
- Ash Soanes: Communications and Engagement

Community attendees: Four persons

Questions raised during session:

- Consultation with pipeline/property work - we sign off on it and get to have sign off between council and residents of the property?
- Pods/pressured holding tanks
 - is there any chance of any of them being shared with neighbour's or will they be individual?
 - how big are the pods and pumps?
- Can you use the current septic tanks?
- How big are you scaling the sewerage system? You mention future proofing are you seeing more residents going in or catering to that.
- What is the property owner is responsible for? Do we pay for pipes to be joined and for electricity source?
- What occurs with the decommissioning of the old septic tank?
- Will there be any ongoing contributions to have this system?
- Will there be a service charge fee/contribution?
- Are there any restrictions on where it can be located?

These questions reflected issues raised at the community drop-in sessions and were answered by the project team during the session. These have also been captured in the project Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

Note: FAQs are being updated regularly with the latest version available on the Kempsey Shire Council Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme project webpage.



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Survey

Purpose: To capture feedback (positive or negative) about issues being investigated as part of the EIS.

Description: Survey will ask a range of questions about the proposed scheme where participants can provide information, identify issues and insights. This will be analysed and included in the consultation report. Hard copy surveys were available at the Stuarts Point Hall, Stuarts Point Library and the community drop-in sessions.

Insights summary

The survey aimed to capture feedback (positive or negative) about issues being investigated as part of the EIS and SIA process.

A survey was developed by the project team, with input from the SIA consultant and was available in hard copy and online. The survey asked a range of questions about the proposed scheme where participants could provide information, identify issues and insights. Information about participating in the survey was included in the community update which was distributed to 578 properties via unaddressed mail and another 169 properties outside the local area via post. Links to the survey were also provided on the project website and social media posts.

The survey was open from Monday 7 November to Friday 22 December 2023, with hard copies available at the information sessions, Stuarts Point library and community hall. There were 44 survey participants with a completion rate of 80% and time spent was typically 6 minutes. The survey questionnaire can be found in the Appendix C.

This report provides valuable insights into the participants' perspectives, priorities and concerns regarding the proposed scheme.

Most participants were property owners (80%) or local residents (61%) and 66% had lived at their current address for more than 10 years.

The participants valued very highly recreation opportunities such as boating, swimming, fishing, walking trails (93%) followed by community/family (64%) and local history (40%).

The top three benefits selected by participants were:

- removing groundwater contamination from septic tanks (64%)
- having a modern sewerage system that sets us up for the future (54%)
- issues being addressed related to the septic system that arise when flooding occurs (51%).

The top three concerns selected by participants were:

- the ongoing costs of sewerage service (77%)
- water quality, groundwater, and waterways (69%)
- how the scheme will work (51%)

The combined population of Stuarts Point, Grassy Head, and Fishermans Reach is 2089 and there are 541 existing properties included in the scheme.



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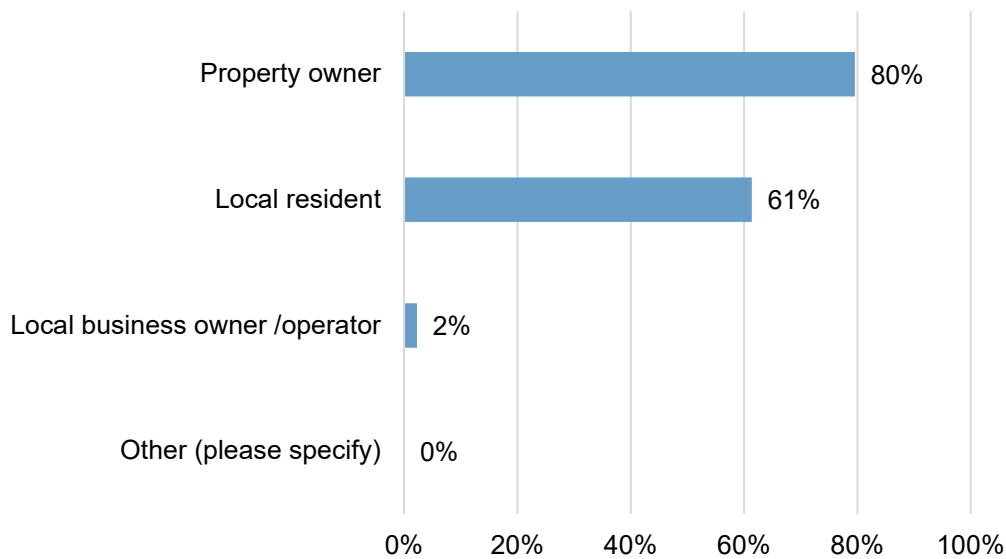
Results

The survey began with a question asking about the participants relationship to the area. Participants could select multiple options. Property owner (80% n=35) was the most common answer followed by local resident (61% n=27) and local business owner/operator (2% n=1).

Relationship with area

Figure 1 Which of the following describe your relationship to the area?

Q1. Which of the following describe your relationship to the area? Please select all that apply to you.



Current address

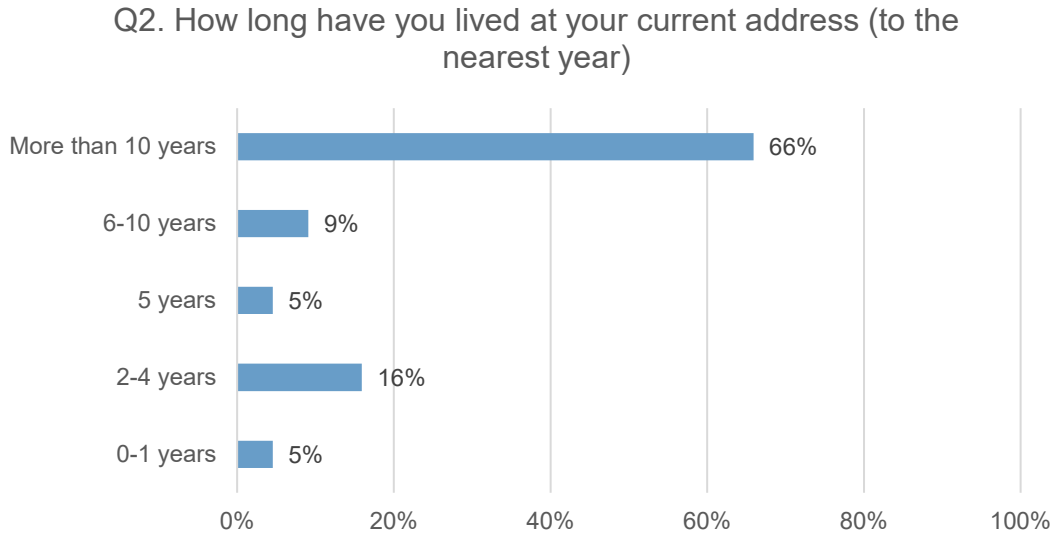
To gain insights into the stability, demographics, and housing characteristics of the participants, we asked how long they had lived at their current address, 75% of participants had lived there over 6 years.

More than 10 years (66%) was the most common response followed by 2-4 years (16%) and 6-10 years (9%).



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Figure 2 How long have you lived at your current address

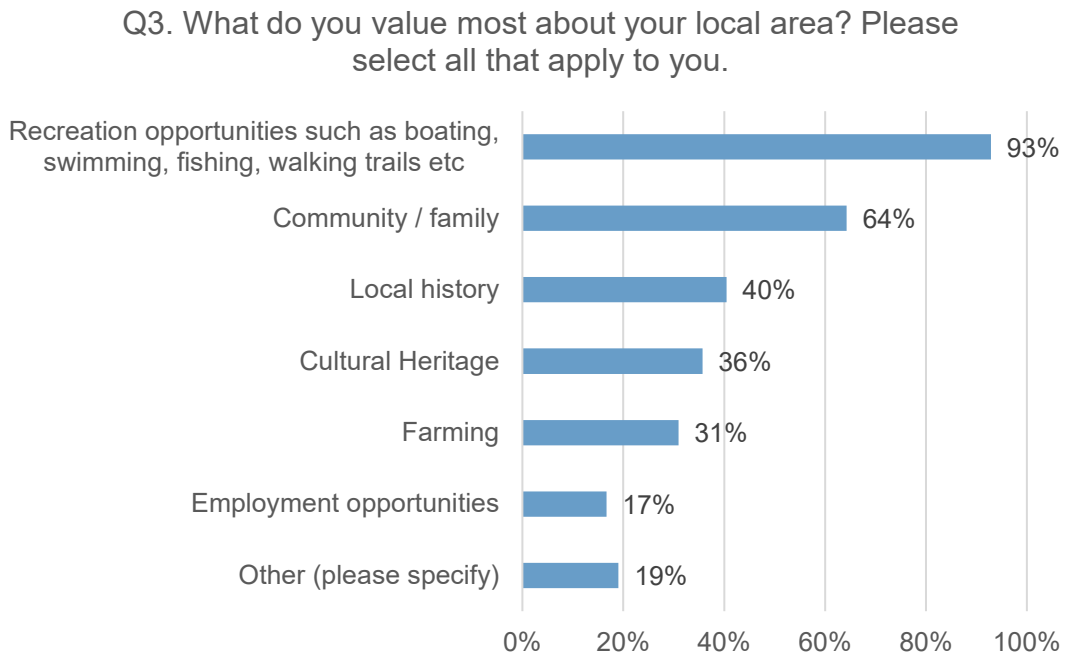


Values

The participants were asked about what they value about their local area. This provides a deeper understanding of the community's values, priorities, and what makes their local area special. Participants could select all that applied to them.

Recreation opportunities such as boating, swimming, fishing, walking trails (93%) was the most highly selected value followed by community / family (64%) and local history (40%).

Figure 3 What do you value most about your local area?



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There was an option for participants to identify their own value, the results included the following:

- *We highly value the rich natural and Aboriginal cultural environment surround our small community village*
- *Coastal Biodiversity*
- *Natural and scenic values*
- *Natural Beauty - National Parks, beaches, river. The isolated community.*
- *Natural beauty*
- *History involving Stuarts Point I am a third-generation owner of the current address at Stuarts Point*
- *Quiet living*
- *Natural environment*

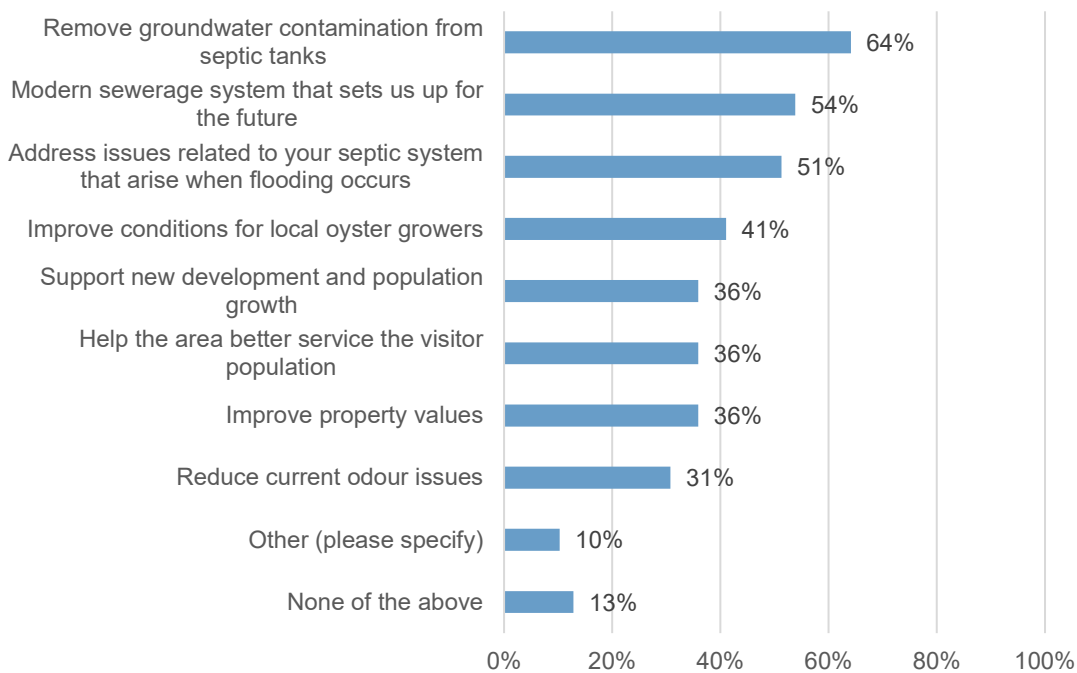
Perceived benefits

To gain community perceptions towards the project, participants were asked about what they consider to be the benefits to themselves and the community.

The top three benefits selected were removing groundwater contamination from septic tanks (64%) followed by having a modern sewerage system that sets us up for the future (54%) and address issues related to the septic system that arise when flooding occurs (51%).

Figure 4 What aspects of the Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme would you consider to be most beneficial for you or your community?

Q4. What aspects of the Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme would you consider to be most beneficial for you or your community?



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'Other' responses:

- *A functioning drainage system for roads and houses is needed as well to help the flooding situation during wet periods.*
- *Ability to have more usage of backyard*
- *Some odours from caravan park when septic is overloaded*
- *Community health*

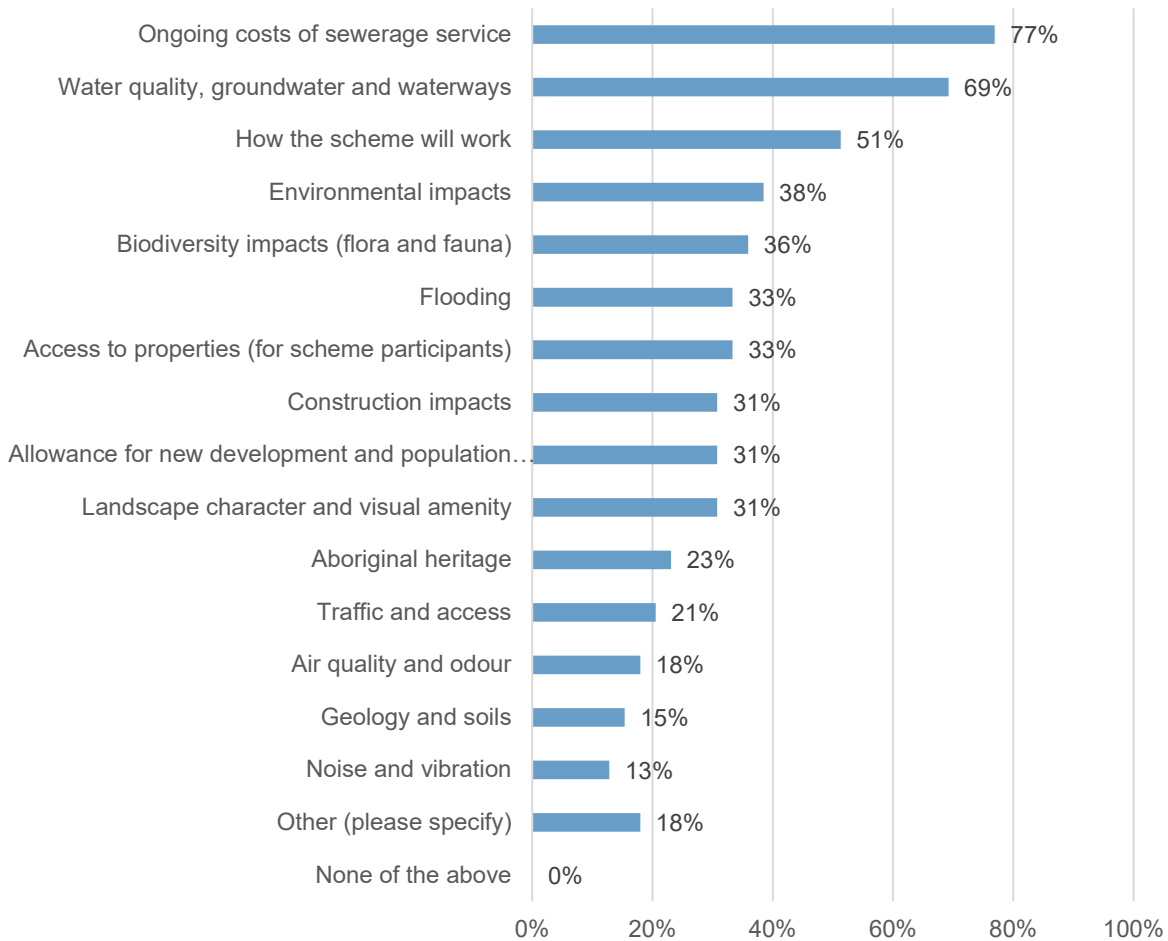
Perceived concerns

Following on from the previous question looking into community perception the project, participants were asked to share the aspects that were of most concern.

Ongoing costs of sewerage service (77%) followed by water quality, groundwater, and waterways (69%) and how the scheme will work (51%) were the top three concerns.

Figure 5 What are the areas of most concern (if any) to you or your community with the Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme?

Q5. What are the areas of most concern (if any) to you or your community with the Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme?



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'Other' responses:

- "The Scheme is not supported by a needs/cost/benefit analysis. The number of houses impacted by 2022 flooding does not justify the millions spent already on the Scheme and future build of the scheme. Waste of tax and rate payer money. Better compliance monitoring of existing septic systems would negate a need for the scheme. The Scheme will be a trigger for development and the consequential harm to the natural environment.
- Ongoing costs to the rate payers of Kempsey shire
- No provision for agricultural reuse of treated water e.g. Avocados need lots of water especially in drought conditions."
- No sewer, leave as is and put the money into stormwater and flooding drainage
- Residents having multiple prices of hardware in their yards that they are responsible for
- Cost of running the system ,extra costs in electricity
- I have no concern because a new system is required and be better for everyone.
- The seemingly inept management of this urgent community health project.

Q6. If you would like to share any insight into why these areas are of concern, please do so below.

The text below is verbatim what was received by the respondents.

- *The Scheme is not supported by a needs/cost/benefit analysis. This should be prepared to just the millions the Scheme will cost. The number of houses impacted by 2022 flooding does not justify the millions spent already on the Scheme and future build of the scheme. It's a better use of public monies to raise septic tanks effected by recent flooding and for councils to do regular checks of existing tanks and putting the onus on owner to fix any defective tanks. Better compliance monitoring of existing septic systems would negate a need for the scheme. The Scheme will be a trigger for development and the consequential harm to the natural environment. The Scheme projects another 600 houses when Council's own Kempsey Local Growth Management Strategy indicates that the area should only have allowance for the development of 73 houses(Pg 56 Section 9.8.4). Ultimately those supporting the Scheme may argue that its being done for environmental reasons. The environmental impacts of the current septic systems have not been adequately studied and as such there is no evidence to support the degree of environmental damage if any. Accordingly, there is no evidence-based needs analysis to support the Scheme and there should be given the level of investment required. Recent leakage caused by flooding only effected a small number of homes. Assistance could be provided to those houses to raise current their septic tanks. Ultimately if the Scheme goes ahead and it caters for an additional 600 houses (as applied for by the Allam Development last year) this will trigger development of land surrounding the current village zoned decades ago before climate change ,Aboriginal heritage, or sustainability where known words. This is a 100 acres of land covered in beautiful trees, sensitive wetlands, aboriginal cultural areas etc. In short, the scheme may have environmental benefits, but these will be offset by much greater negative environmental impacts associated with clearing 100 acres of old bushland and replacing them of hundreds dwellings and increased population.*



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>My main area of concern is future plans for development suburbanisation of Stuarts Point. A sewerage system would enable this to occur. Coastal biodiversity is under huge threat from encroaching housing developments - we have so little left. The mid north coast is the last relatively underdeveloped area. urbanisation should be confined to west of the highway in already cleared areas.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Re q3.5 the area including the discharge area is an area of high biodiversity, ongoing monitoring should be comprehensive and publicly available.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I want to know that the scheme will work and work well. I don't want to have ongoing costs and rate rises because something hasn't been done correctly by Council initially. We need room to allow the village to grow.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>There is nothing wrong with the septic. Replacing these with the sewer will not stop the flooding. The stormwater and drainage issues need to be dealt with before the sewer. We don't want the sewer because we don't need it, our septic works fine. We love our village, our wildlife our bushland, we don't want to lose it to development.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>- The impact during construction is an issue, given the disturbance it will create to the natural environment.</i> • <i>- Ongoing rates and costs to maintain read to be exorbitant and will be placed on the home owners currents costs.</i> • <i>- The Current system in Grassy Head doesn't pose a problem for land owners, just the tourists facilities. Those should be upgraded to onsite bio systems, in tune with the reason people enjoy this area.</i> • <i>- Ongoing systems on sewerage proposed seems expensive from use of electricity and ongoing costs - alarms and noise have been communicated as an issue on similar systems.</i> • <i>- Upgrades will bring more people to the area. other infrastructure cannot support this - there isn't a bike / footpath between the villages for example and the roads are already subject to speeding and which isn't enforced, how will these be addressed. Indirect issues and impacts still exist."</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>In a low socio-economic area renters don't regard yard maintenance highly. The cost of consultants is prohibitive</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Road access to our home with trucks. Been wanting trees removed from centre of road for more than 6 years. Perhaps now they will. Impact at our home for any future assets building. Concrete ECT. Cost in going. What is our base cost now</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The current systems are outdated and polluting the environment. The suggested system will be a great step forward</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Flooding and the current old out of date sewerage treatment via old septic tanks. Long term sustainability for the environment. So as to enhance greater quality of life.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>We have been living in Stuart's Point over 30 years. We are a bit sick of this project being deferred over and over. My main concern is will it ever happen?</i>



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- *With the rising cost of electricity, the individual cost of pumping sewerage. Rising ground water flooding pumps especially in Third Avenue. The visual sight of pump and pump surround near front of house and possible odours. Costs incurred when pump has a failure.*
- *The health issues for the public are immense. Children, both born and unborn, the elderly, mothers etc are vulnerable, as all people are of serious disease from groundwater, both from drinking it and exposed to it from flooding.*

Management options

Participants were then asked to suggest solutions or improvements to address these concerns. The purpose of this question was to encourage community members to actively participate in the decision-making process by providing their suggestions and ideas.

Q7. Thinking about the answers to the previous questions do you have any suggestions regarding enhancement of benefits or management of concerns?

The text below is verbatim what was received by the respondents.

Be great if you could respond to the above concerns.

Many thanks

██████ please email ██████

I would like to see smaller sewerage treatment systems where a small number of streets have their own system. Is there another way of dealing with septic other than a large sewerage system? A similar one to Adelaide Hills area? Can grey water be separated from blackwater? can grey water be used on nearby avocado farms? We need to manage the landscape with a view to the future not just address problems now. Would large population increase in the area be a good idea considering water tables/climate change/fire/ sea level rise?

I'm fearful the scheme will open the door for more residential buildings, detrimentally altering the towns character. I'm not in favour at all.

Re costs - to reduce flooding drainage both a sewerage and drainage scheme complimenting the effects of each other are needed. The pumps previously used are costly and short term. Considering the Council budget projections further grant money is urgently needed.

Put the sewer money into fixing the drainage issues from flooding.

Is there an opt out option for houses / villages - current systems work great for some remote hamlets... do we need incurred costs unnecessarily?

Have a proper discussion regarding retaining septics

You could clear the bloody trees now. Had to cut a truck out last week to get through. Maybe you could plan ahead.

It is important that this new sewerage is developed and progresses even though it may cause concerns for some residents, which I understand their concerns are important to them.

Ongoing costs to rate payers due to resident pump replacements

Get on with it.



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will the pump be maintained by Council, and will property owners be required to supply electricity for this pump on the property?

Storm water and rising ground water need to be addressed in areas where people had to be evacuated, in sewerage system implementation.

Demonstration of the success of the proposed sewerage system in NSW. Feedback from those areas to reassure residents.

Show cost and ongoing costs to each property.

Get your act together. This is very poorly managed. Your brochure is using maps made in 2019 and still we wait for sewerage and curb and gutter and just get more bureaucratic bullshit such as is now published in the brochure.

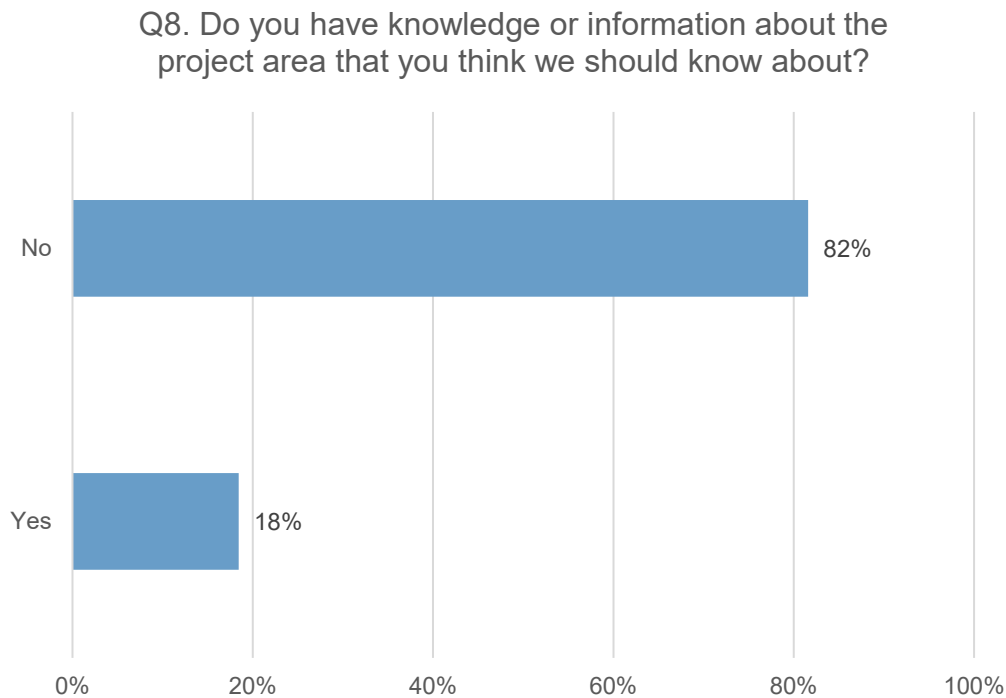
Get digging, the towns infrastructure should have already been installed long ago. Sad emoji.

Note: Name and email address have been redacted to provide confidentiality in this report. The project team will be provided with details to make contact.

Local knowledge

We asked the community if they had knowledge or information about the project that we should know about to make sure participants had a chance to share. Seven participants answered yes.

Figure 6 Do you have knowledge or information about the project area that you think we should know about?

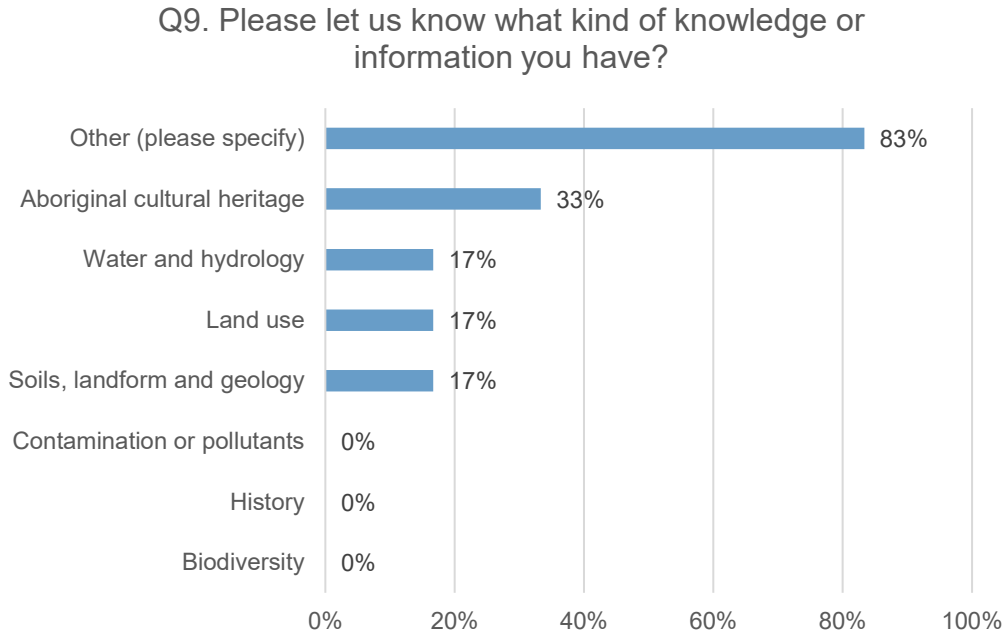


We then asked a follow up to the previous about the kind of information they had. Six participants answered the question. ‘Other’ was selected five times, aboriginal cultural heritage (n=2), water and hydrology (n=1), Land use (n=1) and soils, landform, and geology (n=1).



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Figure 7 Please let us know what kind of knowledge or information you have?



'Other' responses:

- *We have in our sand tracks the beautiful endangered flying duck orchid! They are endangered and we need to keep them safe.*
- *Observations of drainage and storm water at Grassy Head Village and Tourist usage of road, traffic.*
- *Trees*
- *Flooding in Third Avenue*
- *Copy Iluka's system, sewerage is not rocket science. The Romans mastered it long ago.*

Q10. If you wish to provide additional information, please use the space provided or attach any relevant documents below.

- *Indigenous cultural knowledge by its nature is not widely spread. Considering nearby middens, it is possible/likely that significant items may be unearthed and the handling of this is an appropriate way should be anticipated and planned for in advance.*
- *Observations of drainage and storm water at Grassy Head Village and Peak Tourist usage of road, traffic etc.*
- *Limited road access on certain trucks and lengths of loads due to narrow roads as trees are super close and limit load length and width.*

Note: In Q11 we provided an option for participants to attach information or documents, zero responses were received.



STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME

Project information

Q12. Is there anything you would like to see considered in the design, planning, construction, or operation of Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme?

The text below is verbatim what was received by the respondents.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See earlier comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I would like to see smaller sewerage. Treatment systems where a small number of streets have their own system. Is there another way of dealing with septic other than a large sewerage system? A similar one to Adelaide Hills area? Can grey water be separated from blackwater? Can grey water be used on nearby avocado farms? We need to manage the landscape with a view to the future not just address problems now. Would large population increase in the area be a good idea considering water tables/climate change/fire/ sea level rise? <p>See previous page (above). 1. Smaller units, 2. Grey/black water separation. Use of sewerage on farms rather than going out to sea.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I would like for it, not to go ahead.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The continued dialogue and explanations from the Council to the community is appreciated. Provision in sewerage plant for future agricultural use of treated water.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ease of operation No impact to the use of the property (or: able to extend/build a shed) Consistency of use - minor breakdowns and issues No extra costs to ratepayers once the system is installed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No extra costs our rates were already increased
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatment Facility specs how is waste water treated, what happens to the effluent, the solid component. Have other alternatives and locations been considered?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparent costs of maintaining property Pumping systems, who is responsible? Who will attend call outs for alarm faults ? How will existing septic tanks be utilised or are they to be decommissioned ? - if so, there may be constraints due to property sizes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financially the council won't be affected but the residents will be left with a hefty ongoing yearly levy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of the visual impact of the scheme
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only.....the quicker the better
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan for bike/walking track at the same time as pipeline construction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development in a timely manner. My opinion the sooner the better for the preservation of our environment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I would like council to think hard about water recharge from the sewerage system going back into the aquifer. Many landowners are reliant on water for their cropping enterprises and if water taken out of aquifer system is not returned it will have a huge impact on the ongoing water supply for Stuarts Point
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting the scheme over the line . We have been waiting long enough .
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stormwater run-off issue addressed to ocean Ave
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where is the main pipe going in Nineteenth aver?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forget pumping treated effluent onto dunes.



STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a seriously dumb question. All the spin of expertise and now you're asking Joe Blow for his opinion. Seriously?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Something different to the system that is being used
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That it future proof for future growth of the area and that is safe for the environment if there is a system problem.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help manage costs of connecting individual properties to the sewerage system. Is there a way the council can help organise a tender for larger scale contractors who can do a bulk deal which would reduce costs for participating property owners (vs leaving each individual owner to manage the connection themselves).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costings

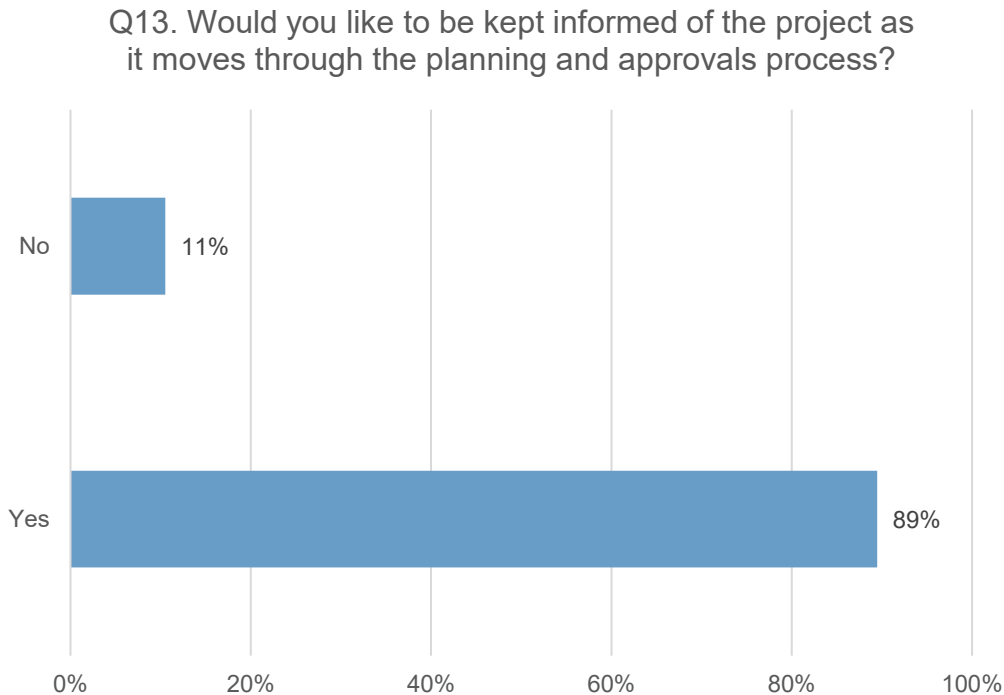
Ongoing information

The purpose of question 13 was to capture if and how participants would like to be kept up to date about the project.

Most of the participants selected that they would you like to be kept informed of the project as it moves through the planning and approvals process (89%).

Q13. Would you like to be kept informed of the project as it moves through the planning and approvals process?

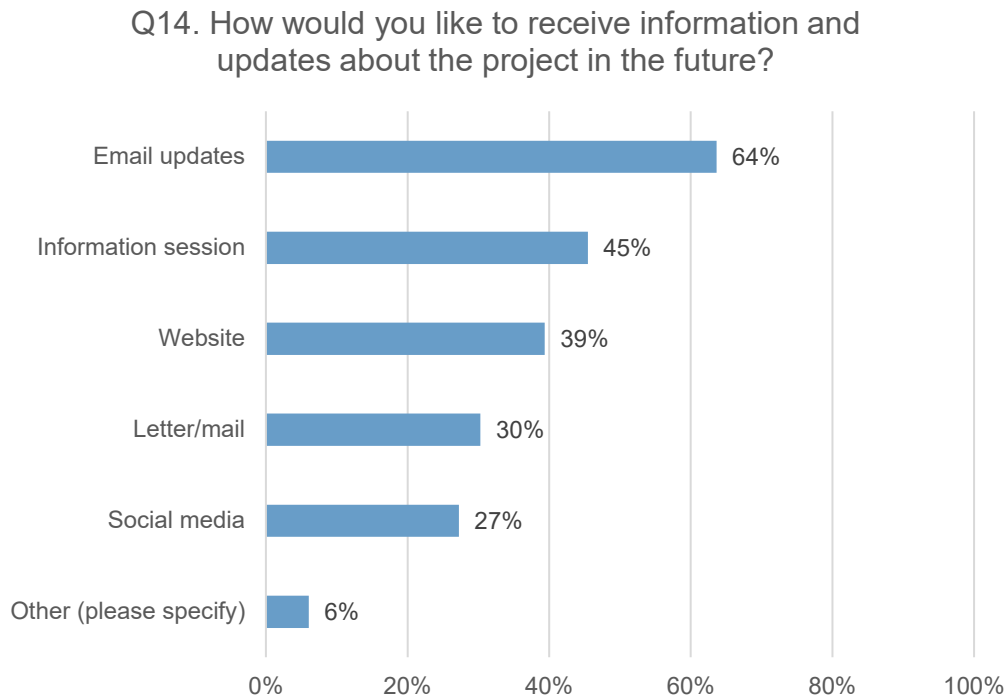
Figure 8 Would you like to be kept informed of the project as it moves through the planning and approvals process?



STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME

To provide information to the community we asked how the participants wished to be kept updated. Email updates was the most popular method followed by information session (45%) and on the website (39%).

Figure 9 How would you like to receive information and updates about the project in the future?



Please provide the post code of where you live

Postcode	Count
2441	29
2440	1
2095	1
4221	1
2322	1
2450	1
Total	34

The following questions were also asked but have been omitted from this report.

- What is your name?
- Please provide your email address.
- Please provide your phone number.
- If you are completing this survey on behalf of an organisation what is its name?



STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME

Recommendations

- Provide frequently asked question to community with updated questions from information sessions and survey responses. In particular addressing the concerns surrounding the ongoing cost of sewerage service and timelines for the project.
- Provide pictures of the new sewerage service in situ to show the size and a visual of what it will look like.
- Contact the participants who said they had information to share with the project team.
- Provide future updates via email, information sessions and on the Kempsey Shire Council website.
- Provide further information to the community surrounding key concerns ongoing costs for new sewerage service, water quality, groundwater, and waterways and how the scheme will work.
- Provide this report to the Social Impact Assessment Consultant.

Note: The survey results present differently to attendees of the face-to-face drop-in sessions. The survey results have a more positive sentiment while the face-to-face sessions had a more neutral to negative sentiment.



STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME

Appendix A: Engagement collateral Community update



Kempsey Shire Council is committed to providing our communities with safe and reliable drinking water, along with a sewerage system that protects the health of customers and minimises impacts on the environment. Council is currently working on a program of works to upgrade water and wastewater infrastructure which is aligned with Council's Community Strategic Plan (2042: Your Future).

Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme

The Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme project will service Stuarts Point, Grassy Head and Fishermans Reach and provide a modern and reliable means of treating sewage and disposing of treated effluent.

The existing on-site sewage management systems (OSMS) that service both business and residential properties are aged and under unsustainable sewage loadings, with most properties served by septic tanks with absorption trenches or pump-out systems. The current method of treatment and disposal is no longer suitable and regular failures are occurring with untreated sewage leaking into the environment causing contamination, odour and water quality issues.

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 effluent (similar to South West Rocks). 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.

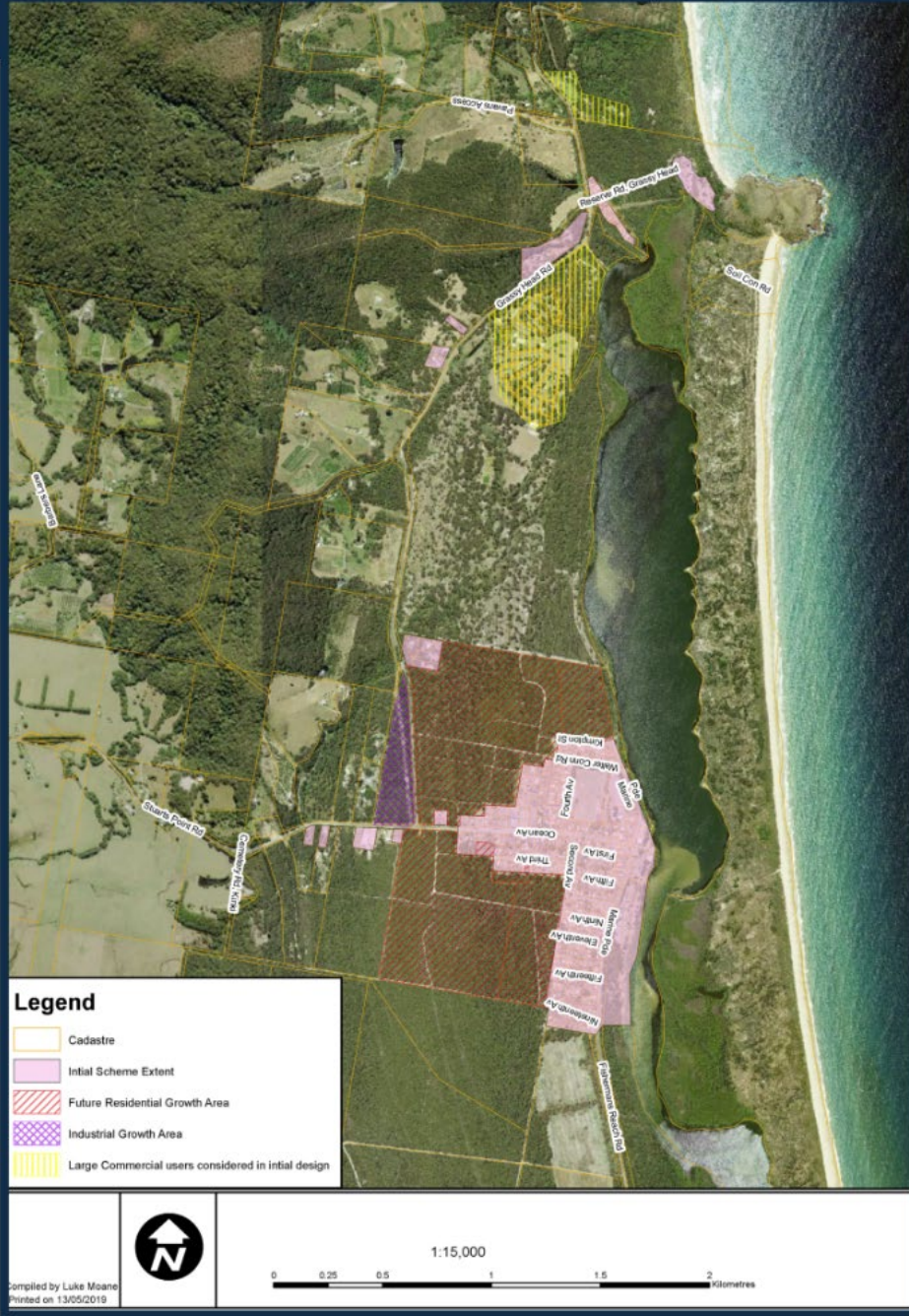
Planning and construction of the Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme is highly complex and requires state government environmental and planning consent called a State Significant Development (SSD), involving the preparation and public exhibition of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

2023 project achievements and next steps				
March 2023 EIS scoping report submitted to Department of Planning and Environment.	April 2023 SEARS issued by Department of Planning and Environment.	June 2023 Project management office established.	September 2023 Site inspections to commence such as biodiversity, geotech, aboriginal cultural heritage, traffic and transport.	November 2023 Consultation to inform the development of the EIS.



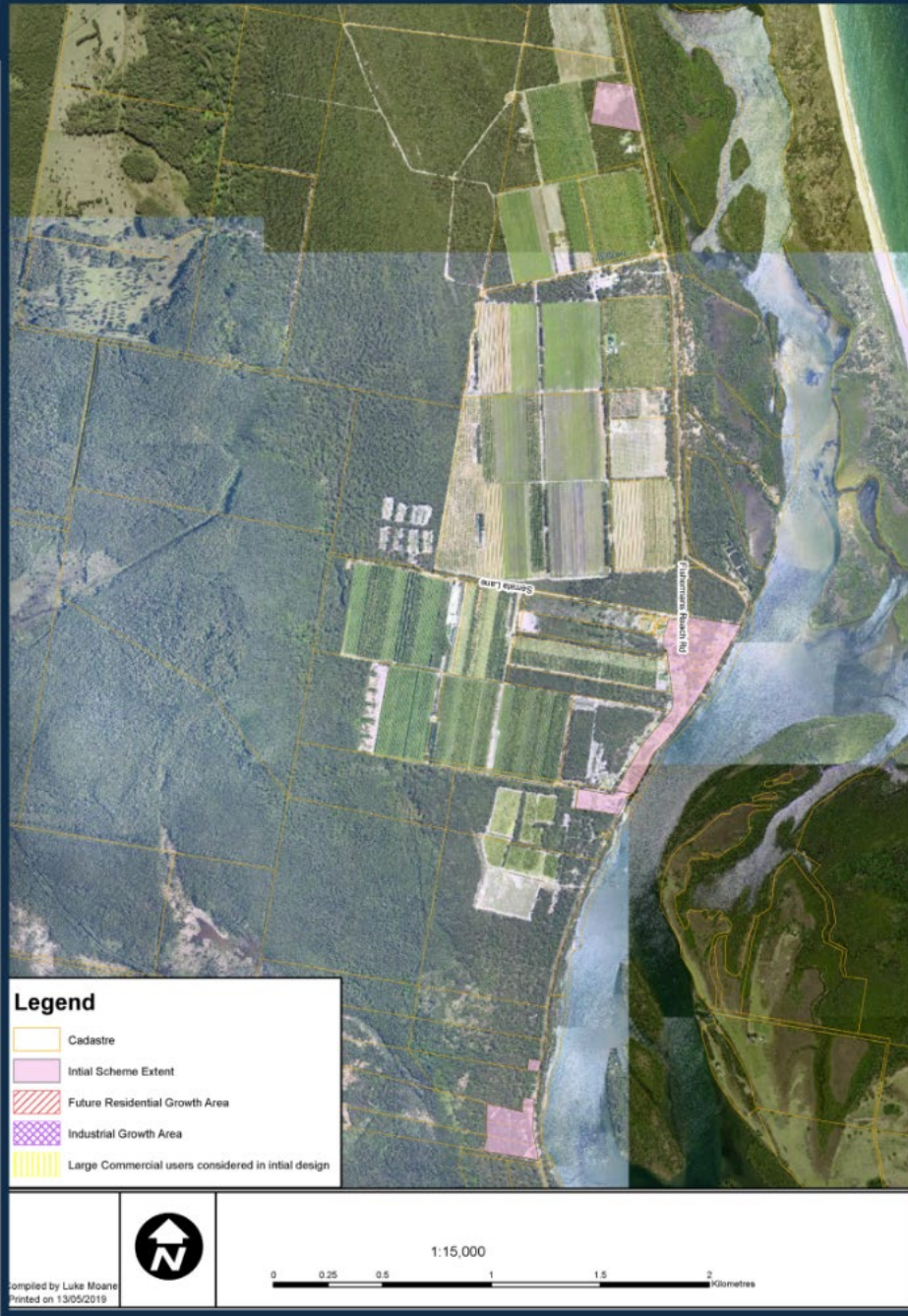
STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME

Scheme Participation Stuarts Point and Grassy Head



STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME

Scheme Participation Fishermans Reach



STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME

Project update: EIS development

The Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme is currently in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) phase, with detailed environmental and social impact assessment (SIA) studies underway.

The SIA includes targeted community consultation, focusing on assessing key social impacts and identifying strategies to manage these impacts and enhance opportunities.



We are collecting feedback from the local community about the project and your experiences of living in your community and the broader region.

The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete online. Scan the QR code on this page and it will take you to the survey link. Hard copies are also available at Stuarts Point Library and Stuarts Point Community Hall.

All information provided is confidential and will only be reported in an anonymous aggregate form. The survey is open until Wednesday 22 December 2023.

We are also hosting face to face drop-in sessions and virtual information sessions to share more information about the project.

Registration is essential for the virtual sessions, scan the QR code or visit the website link below. No need to register for the face-to-face sessions, drop by anytime during the times listed.

Community sessions



Wednesday 15 November
5.30pm to 6.15pm
Virtual via MS Teams



Wednesday 22 November
12noon to 2pm
Stuarts Point Community Hall



Wednesday 22 November
3.30pm to 5.30pm
Stuarts Point Community Hall



Wednesday 22 November
6.30pm to 7.15pm
Virtual via MS Teams



Thursday 23 November
9am to 11am
Stuarts Point Community Hall



Thursday 23 November
1pm to 3pm
Stuarts Point Community Hall



Wednesday 6 December
8am to 8.45am
Virtual via MS Teams



More information

Additional project information is available by:

- scanning the QR code
- visiting Council's website ksc.pub/stuarts-point
- phoning (02) 6566 3200
- emailing ksc@kempsey.nsw.gov.au



STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME

Social media posts Facebook post

Kempsey Shire Council
November 22, 2023 · 🌐

WE ARE EXCITED TO PROVIDE YOU WITH MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME.

The Scheme will service Stuarts Point, Grassy Head and Fishermans Reach and provide a modern and reliable means of treating sewage and disposing of treated effluent.

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project is being currently developed as part of the State Significant Development process and we are also collecting feedback from the local community about the project and your experience living in your community. We have a range of ways for you to get involved through our survey and community information sessions, either in person or virtually.

📄 Our survey is now open and we want to hear from you:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Stuartspoint>

Community drop-in sessions at Stuarts Point Community Hall:

📅 Join us on the following dates, and feel free to drop by anytime during the listed hours.

Wednesday, November 22:

- 🕒 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM
- 🕒 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Thursday, November 23:

- 🕒 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
- 🕒 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Virtual Information Sessions:

📄 Join our online sessions at the times below. Registration is required:

- Wednesday 22 November – 6.30pm to 7.15pm
- Wednesday 6 December – 8am to 8.45am

📄 To register for virtual sessions please visit our website.

Your participation is important to us, and we look forward to hearing from you.

The latest information is available on the Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme project page - ksc.pub/stuarts-point

#kempseyshirecouncil #macleayvalley #kempseyshire #stuartspoint #stuartspointseweragescheme #environmentalimpact #MajorProjects #waterandsewer

1:02 / 1:32



STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME

Facebook events

A Facebook event was created for each community session.

The screenshot displays six Facebook event cards for the Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme. Each card includes a date, a title, a description, the location, and an 'Interested' button. The events are as follows:

Date	Title	Description	Location	Interested
THU, NOV 23, 2023	Join us for Stuart's Point Sewerage Scheme community drop-in session!	4 people went	Stuarts Point Community Hall	Interested
THU, NOV 23, 2023	Join us for Stuart's Point Sewerage Scheme community drop-in session!	1 person went	Stuarts Point Community Hall	Interested
WED, NOV 22, 2023	Join us for Stuart's Point Sewerage Scheme community drop-in session!	1 person went	Stuarts Point Community Hall	Interested
WED, NOV 22, 2023	Join us for Stuart's Point Sewerage Scheme community drop-in session!	1 person went	Stuarts Point Community Hall	Interested
WED, DEC 6, 2023	Join us for Stuart's Point Sewerage Scheme virtual community session!	Online event - 1 person went		Interested
WED, NOV 22, 2023	Join us for Stuart's Point Sewerage Scheme virtual community session!	Online event - 1 person went		Interested



STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME

Letter to property owners

Ref: D23/77083

9 November 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME

Kempsey Shire Council is developing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme as part of the State Significant Development process. The Scheme will service Stuarts Point, Grassy Head and Fishermans Reach and provide a modern, reliable means of collecting and treating sewage and disposing of treated effluent.

Consultation to inform the EIS is now open and over the coming weeks the project team will be hosting four community drop-in sessions and three virtual information sessions. There is also a survey open to capture feedback, issues and opportunities for the Scheme.

Enclosed with this letter is the spring 2023 community update which outlines when these sessions are occurring. This information has been delivered to all properties in Stuarts Point, Fishermans Reach and Grassy Head. Properties where the postal address is different to the street address have been mailed this information directly.

In addition to the consultation for the EIS, we will also be starting property audits in early 2024 to determine how properties will connect to the scheme and where pumping and pipework infrastructure will need to go on your property. This work will be completed by our pressure sewer system designer and we will get back in touch with you about this once they have been engaged.

We encourage you to participate in the consultation activities and look forward to sharing progress reports with you as the project progresses. Please contact the project team on 02 6566 3200 or email ksc@kempsey.nsw.gov.au if you have any questions.

Additional information is also available on the Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme project page ksc.pub/stuarts-point, this page can also be accessed by scanning the QR code.



Yours faithfully


Wes Trotter
Director Utilities
Kempsey Shire Council



Civic Centre
22 Tozer Street
PO Box 3078
West Kempsey
NSW 2440
Customer Service
P. 02 6566 3200
ksc@kempsey.nsw.gov.au
ABN
70 705 618 663



 kempsey.nsw.gov.au  [KempseyShireCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/KempseyShireCouncil)  [KempseyShireCouncil](https://www.instagram.com/KempseyShireCouncil)  [KempseyShireCouncil](https://www.linkedin.com/company/KempseyShireCouncil)



STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME

Advertising: Macleay Argus

2 MACLEAY ARGUS Friday November 10, 2023

macleayargus.com

NEWS

Rates meeting changes

COLUMN
BY KEMPSEY SHIRE COUNCIL

STRONG public interest in council's decision whether to apply for a rate increase has prompted Kempsey Shire Council to move the November meeting to Majestic Cinemas in Kempsey Central.

The cinema will host both the ordinary meeting held on Tuesday 21 November and the Public Forum on the Monday afternoon before.

Craig Milburn, General Manager, acknowledged the significant public interest in the meeting and highlighted concerns with the Council Chambers including capacity, disability access and the single staircase entry.

"The Council Chambers is not able to safely accommodate a large public gallery attendance, and by moving the meeting to a more suitable venue we will create capacity for more interested community members to attend both meetings," said Mr Milburn.

"In considering viable locations staff identified the need for availability during business hours, good parking, appropriate access and



The meeting will now be held in Majestic Cinemas in Kempsey

high-quality internet and audio-visual connection."

The Public Forum, which normally runs for 1 hour, has also been extended to run for up to 2 hours. It will be held on Monday 20 November

from 3.30-5.30pm.

The extra time will help accommodate expected additional requests by members of the public to speak on items before Council.

Anyone wanting to speak

at the Public Forum needs to register between Wednesday 15 and midday Friday 17 November, using the form on Council's website.

Individual presentations will still be held to the

five-minute time limit.

"We have given the matter careful consideration and discussed the options with the Councillors," said Mr Milburn.

"We will still be holding

the Public Forum on the afternoon before the meeting, to adhere to our code of meeting practice.

"This earlier start allows for more community involvement, creates flexibility for people with work commitments, and ensures Councillors have time to give due consideration to issues raised in the Public Forum and to seek further confirmation or facts from the staff overnight before voting on these matters."

In 2018 when Council made its one-off financial contribution to the cinema construction, a voluntary planning agreement was signed granting Council annual access to the cinema facility free of charge for community use.

"Council makes no ongoing financial contribution to the operation of the cinema, but taking advantage of the venue for this meeting is an appropriate decision," said Mr Milburn.

Details and the business papers for the meeting will be available from Wednesday 15 November 2023 on council's website.

KEMPSEY SHIRE COUNCIL NOTICES

WHAT'S ON

Watch this space for news on upcoming events, services and activities in the Macleay Valley.

- 14 NOV** **Hot Head Mobile Library Van**
10.00am-12.30am Tuesday (fortnightly)
53 Straight Street, Hat Head
- 15 NOV** **Crescent Head Mobile Library Van**
9.30am-11.30am Wednesday (fortnightly)
Crescent Head Country Club
1 Rankine Street, Crescent Head
- 16 NOV** **Understanding Your Energy Bills - Webinar #3**
5.30pm - 6.30pm Wednesday
Country University Centre, Kempsey Central
2-14 Belgrave Street, Kempsey
- 17 NOV** **Bobby Bounce 0-3 Years**
10.00am-10.30am Friday (fortnightly)
Kempsey Library
22 Tozer Street, Kempsey

For more info visit ksc.pub/whats-on

PUBLIC EOI

FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT

PROTECTING OUR FUTURE AGAINST FLOOD EVENTS

How should we manage risk for future flood events and how can we better plan and prepare for future flood events? A reference group will be set up for the lower Macleay Flood Risk Management Plan.

HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED

We understand many of our community have been impacted by flood events and would like to share their experience and knowledge to ensure our community remains safe in the event of flood events occur.

If you would like to apply to be a member of the Flood Risk Committee, please read the Terms and Conditions and submit your Expression of Interest to ksc.pub/flood-eoi. All EOIs will be reviewed by the Project Team and the successful applicants notified.

Bushfire Recovery Support

RECOVERY CENTRE - HAT HEAD

Nat Head Community Centre
53 Straight Street, Hat Head

Thursday 16 November 10am - 3pm

Face-to-face bushfire recovery support and services will be available, including financial assistance, mental health and wellbeing services, and support for business.

For more information visit www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au, call 1300 656 656 or email customerservice@ksc.nsw.gov.au

SUSTAINABLE CHOICES THAT SAVE YOU MONEY?

Webinar #3
Understanding your energy bills.
Wednesday 15 November 5.30pm (1hr)

Register or for more info visit ksc.pub/webinars

WEEKLY WORKS SCHEDULE

UNDER CONSTRUCTION - SMITHDOWN RIVER BRIDGE

Council's Works teams are continuing to work hard every day to improve and maintain our community infrastructure and physical environment. The Smithdown River Bridge (river remediation - John Street section) installation of rock revetment is 85% complete. Visit ksc.pub/works23 for Council's full works schedule.

PUBLIC FORUM

Monday 20 November

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 21 November

Please see Council's website for more information kempsey.nsw.gov.au

CONTACT COUNCIL

CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE
Monday - Friday
9am - 4:30pm

POST
PO Box 3078
West Kempsey
NSW 2640

PHONE
02 4566 5000
Monday - Friday
8:30am - 4:30pm

EMAIL
ksc@kempsey.nsw.gov.au

SOCIAL MEDIA

[Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/KempseyShireCouncil) [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/KempseyShireCouncil)

[kempsey.nsw.gov.au](https://www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au)

LEVEL 1 WATER RESTRICTIONS

Hot days used in a severe environment during Level 1 Water Restrictions you are permitted to:

- Short showers** - Shower your body and hair using a handheld shower head for no more than 5 minutes.
- Washing of laundry** - Wash with a handheld hose fitted with a trigger or control nozzle for no more than 5 minutes on a peak or trough.

For more visit ksc.pub/water

SIMON MARK Up The Macleay

OPENING EVENT - ENTRY IS FREE
10.00am-11.30am Saturday 18 Nov
10.00am-11.30am Sunday 19 Nov
10.00am-11.30am Monday 20 Nov

www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au

STUARTS POINT EIS DROP IN SESSIONS

If you are interested in providing input to the Stuart's Point Sewerage Scheme is open as part of the State Significant Development process. The scheme will service Stuart's Point, West Head and Fishermans Reach and provide a modern and reliable means of treating sewage and disposing of treated effluent.

Consultation to inform the EIS is open and the project team is holding four community drop-in sessions and three virtual information sessions. There is also a survey open to capture feedback, issues and opportunities for the Scheme. The latest information is available on the Stuart's Point Sewerage Scheme project page ksc.pub/stuarts-point

Kempsey Shire Council acknowledges the land of the Thungutti/Dunghutti Nation. We pay respect to Elders past and present. We acknowledge the role of emerging leaders to continue to guide us in the future. We acknowledge the Stolen Generations and the need to change practices to be inclusive. This land always was and always will be Thungutti/Dunghutti land.



STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME

Appendix B: Drop in session collateral

Customer Request Form

Forms were filed with Kempsey Shire Council via the following link:

<https://www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au/Your-Valley/Have-your-say/How-can-we-help>

Customer Request Form

Name:	
Business/Organisation name:	
Email:	
Contact number:	
Address:	
Suburb:	
Talk to us about:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Abandoned vehicles <input type="checkbox"/> Animals <input type="checkbox"/> Building matters <input type="checkbox"/> Cemeteries and graves <input type="checkbox"/> Drainage and flooding <input type="checkbox"/> Food <input type="checkbox"/> Footpath repairs <input type="checkbox"/> Footpath - request for new <input type="checkbox"/> Graffiti <input type="checkbox"/> Noise <input type="checkbox"/> Parking <input type="checkbox"/> Parks and playgrounds <input type="checkbox"/> Rates <input type="checkbox"/> Roads <input type="checkbox"/> Trees <input type="checkbox"/> Wedding bookings <input type="checkbox"/> Waste/recycling <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Exact location:	
When did it occur:	
Request details:	

Privacy disclaimer: The information supplied will only be used to follow up on your above request. We are committed to protecting your privacy.



STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME

SIA Information Sheet

SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Social impacts generally refer to the consequences that people experience when a new project brings change. A Social Impact Assessment (SIA) aims to identify, predict, and evaluate likely social impacts arising from a project and propose responses to the predicted impacts.

In New South Wales, every State significant project is subject to a SIA. The SIA is targeted and proportionate to the likely project impacts and context and is one input to the broader environmental impact assessment (EIA) process.

AAP Consulting Pty Ltd has been engaged to prepare the SIA for the proposed Stuarts Point Sewerage Treatment Scheme. The SIA is being carried out in line with the Department of Planning and Environment's Social Impact Assessment Guidelines (2023).

Contact Us

If you would like more information about SIA or would like to speak to a representative from AAP Consulting, please use the contact details below or scan the QR code.

 feedback@AAPconsulting.com.au

 0438 620 066



STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME

Additional maps
Dunal discharge study area

Stuarts Point Pressure Sewer Scheme



Kempsey Shire Council acknowledges the land of the Thunggutti/Dunghutti Nation. We pay respect to Elders past and present. We acknowledge the role of emerging leaders to continue to guide us in the future. We acknowledge the Stolen Generations and the need to change practices to be inclusive. This land always was and always will be Thunggutti/Dunghutti land.



STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME

Frequently Asked Questions



KEMPSEY
Shire Council

Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme Frequently Asked Questions

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 (like 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 expected by the end of August 2023. The study is expected to be finalised for submission and public exhibition by December 2024.

Field work for the EIS is expected 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

- detailed design of the 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
- call (02) 6566 3200
- email ksc@kempsey.nsw.gov.au



STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME



Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme Frequently Asked Questions

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 the 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 DPE Water to determine the best solution and propose a dunal discharge diffuser which is the same system as South West Rocks.

Where on the dunes will the discharge point be located?

It is proposed that the dunal discharge point will be located between the 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 all three villages, your property will be connected to sewer and will be liable for annual Council sewerage service charges.



STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME



KEMPSEY
Shire Council

Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme Frequently Asked Questions

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 scheme installation however each household 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 that includes 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 be the pressure sewer unit 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 has 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.



STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME



Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme Frequently Asked Questions

What is the average yearly electrical cost to operate a unit servicing the typical single-family home? What is the duration 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 of approximately 24 hours. If the power goes out or the pump fails, the pump control panel alarm warning light will energise 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.



STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME

Appendix C: Survey questionnaire



Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme Survey

The Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme is currently in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) phase, with detailed environmental and social impact assessment (SIA) studies underway.

These studies will be used by the NSW Government to make decisions about the proposed Scheme which includes the sewerage collection system, wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and effluent transfer and disposal.

Consultation to inform the EIS and SIA includes targeted community consultation, focusing on assessing key social impacts and identifying strategies to manage these impacts and enhance opportunities.

This community survey has been developed to collect feedback from the local community about the project and your experiences of living in your community and the broader region.

The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. All information provided is confidential and will only be reported in an anonymous aggregate form.

We want to hear what's important to you and your feedback will help us plan the project. We will only get in touch with you to follow up on any feedback if you direct us to in your responses and provide contact details.

For more information, please visit the [Stuarts Point project page](#) on the Kempsey Shire Council website.

1. Which of the following describe your relationship to the area?

Please select all that apply to you.

- Local resident
- Local business owner /operator
- Property owner
- Other (please specify) _____

2. How long have you lived at your current address (to the nearest year)

- 0-1 years
- 2-4 years
- 5 years
- 6-10 years
- More than 10 years



STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME



Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme Survey

3. What do you value most about your local area? Please select all that apply to you.

- Local history
- Recreation opportunities such as boating, swimming, fishing, walking trails etc
- Community / family
- Farming
- Employment opportunities
- Cultural Heritage
- Other (please specify) _____

4. What aspects of the Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme would you consider to be most beneficial for you or your community?

- Modern sewerage system that sets ups up for the future
- Remove groundwater contamination from septic tanks
- Reduce current odour issues
- Address issues related to your septic system that arise when flooding occurs
- Improve property values
- Help the area better service the visitor population
- Improve conditions for local oyster growers
- Support new development and population growth
- Other (please specify) _____
- None of the above

5. What are the areas of most concern (if any) to you or your community with the Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme?

- Water quality, groundwater and waterways
- Biodiversity impacts (flora and fauna)
- Environmental impacts
- Geology and soils
- Noise and vibration
- Air quality and odour
- Aboriginal heritage
- Traffic and access
- Landscape character and visual amenity
- How the scheme will work
- Access to properties (for scheme participants)
- Flooding
- Allowance for new development and population growth
- Construction impacts
- Ongoing costs of sewerage service
- Other (please specify) _____



STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME



Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme Survey

4a. If you would like to share any insight into why these areas are of concern, please do so below.

6. Thinking about the answers to the previous questions do you have any suggestions regarding enhancement of benefits or management of concerns?

7. Do you have knowledge or information about the project area that you think we should know about?

- Yes (go to question 7a)
- No (go to question 8)

7a. Please let us know what kind of knowledge or information you have?

A member from the project team will be in touch with you regarding the information you have to share.

- Soils, landform and geology
- Biodiversity
- Aboriginal cultural heritage
- History
- Land use
- Water and hydrology
- Contamination or pollutants
- Other (please specify) _____

7b. If you wish to provide information, please do so below.



STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME



Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme Survey

8. Is there anything you would like to see considered in the design, planning, construction or operation of Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme?

9. Would you like to be kept informed of the project as it moves through the planning and approvals process?

- Yes (go to question 9a)
- No (go to question 10)

9a. How would you like to receive information and updates about the project in the future?

- Information session
- Email updates
- Social media
- Letter/mail
- Website
- Other (please specify) _____

10. Please provide your contact details below.

Thank you for taking the time to share your insights with us. We will continue to keep you up to date as the project progresses. Please provide your contact details below, we will use this to share project updates and contact you about site plans (where applicable).

Name: _____

Email address: _____

Phone number: _____

Post code: _____

Organisation (if applicable): _____

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Your feedback will be reviewed as part of the EIS and SIA.

