

Scotland Island Sewerage Project

Question and Answers

Q1. Why is this happening now?

We are trying to keep the option for the installation of a mains sewerage system on Scotland Island on the table. For many years Sydney Water and the NSW State Government promised that a detailed sewerage plan would be developed for Scotland Island. This would allow the community to make an informed decision. Just at the point where Scotland Island was at the top of the planning schedule for the Priority Sewerage Program, Sydney Water is requesting that this program and all its associated infrastructure liabilities be dropped. We need the community to respond strongly to the decision makers to not let this happen!

Q2. If it went ahead how much might this cost me?

The NSW State Government will fund almost the entire project up to a small macerator pressure pump for each household, as they did at Dangar Island. You will be responsible for the connection from your house to the macerator pump and any necessary upgrades of your home system. This figure may be between \$3,000 and \$10,000. The Sydney Water service cost is about \$145.00 per quarter plus \$35.00 to \$45.00 per year in electricity to run the macerator pump. There will initially be a plumbing and drainage audit inspection fee of approx. \$195.00.

Q3. How long might this project take?

The project will possibly take about a year to complete.

Q4. Would I have to connect?

Pittwater Council has previously said that each household would have a year to connect. After this, approvals to run septic systems will be withdrawn.

Q5. Will I get water as well?

We have asked for water to be connected as it makes sense to install this infrastructure at the same time. The best answer, for now, is maybe.

Q6. Will the sewage go to a relay station before it leaves the Island and where will that be?

As far as we know a silent, odourless relay tank would be situated underground somewhere on the Island.

Q7. What would be the impact be on the existing roads?

It is anticipated that the main trench would be along the road reserves, so there would be some disruption. If this is going to happen it may be best to do it before too much more road improvement is done.

Q8. What will the process be?

Our best guess is that trenches will be dug around the Island, adjacent to roads (generally) at about 0.5 to 1.0 metre deep.

Approx. 100mm high pressure pipe will be laid in the trenches.

Macerator pumps will be installed for each household.

A relay tank would be situated underground somewhere on the Island

This is where the effluent will go before it's pumped off the Island.

Q9. Will there be an environmental impact study?

Sydney Water will be required to conduct a study.

Q10. Will I be able to put all my waste water through this system?

Yes, but no personal items.

Q11. Will I need a grease trap?

No. A grease trap will not be required, as the macerator pump will deal with kitchen waste. However, you must never dispose of oil down the kitchen sink.

Q12. Will I be able to use bleach and other cleaning products in my toilets, etc.?

Yes, all cleaning products suitable for use on the mainland can be used with this system.

Q13. Can you please explain why the Council sewage inspections are ineffective?

We are not saying that the inspections are ineffective, and there are some good examples of well managed systems. What the Martens Report discussed was the overall unsuitability of the Scotland Island terrain, environment and soil profile for 350 or more on-site septic disposal systems.