

Water and Wastewater

Community Update

August, 2016



SIRA has been meeting with State Government and Council officials to progress the connection of Scotland Island to water and sewerage. While sewerage services are a SIRA priority, residents commented in the survey conducted in 2015 that a permanent Sydney Water connection was also desirable. If it is possible, SIRA will pursue the connection of both sewerage and water for residents of Scotland Island.

SIRA met with Minister Blair on 26 November 2015 to reinforce the necessity for Scotland Island to remain on the Government's Priority Sewerage Program and that the works needed to be scheduled. As suggested by the Minister, SIRA investigated alternative options to Sydney Water's proposal. A representative from the company PS Solutions visited Scotland Island in December to familiarise himself with the terrain of the Island and with issues related to the installation of mains sewer. PS Solutions then consulted Flow Systems, a sustainable utility providing drinking water, recycled water and wastewater services to greenfield and urban infill communities. SIRA also requested that the report of the expected costs to connect mains sewerage to the Island, as determined by Sydney Water, be provided and was received in early March.

A meeting in Minister Blair's office on 31 March was attended by the policy officers of Minister Blair and Rob Stokes, representatives of PS Solutions and Flow Systems and Judy Readman, Cass Gye and Bill Gye from SIRA. The outcome from the meeting was that Minister Blair's office expected a feasibility study of connection of sewerage to the Island be conducted, that the costs quoted by Sydney Water to connect sewerage were very high and PS Solutions and Flow Systems believed it could be undertaken at a much lower cost. The action from the meeting was that Minister Blair's policy officer contact Sydney Water for further discussion on their costings, feasibility and implementation, plus timeframe.

A meeting on 8 April with the local member Rob Stokes was attended by Bill Gye, Cass Gye and Judy Readman from SIRA, a representative of Rob Stokes staff, representatives of Pittwater Council and representatives from PS Solutions and Flow Solutions. Commitment of the NSW Government to this project through the Northern Beaches Regional Action Plan in 2012 was confirmed by Rob Stokes, MP. PS Solutions presented a concept plan and Flow Systems were able to give examples of work in which they had been involved. All agreed that mains water and sewerage should be done at the same time. PS Solutions and Flow Solutions estimated that the project to supply mains water and sewerage could be at a significantly lesser cost than quoted by Sydney Water.

Following this meeting, Rob Stokes wrote to Minister Blair to seek funding from the State Government for the feasibility study. The Northern Beaches Council, at its meeting on 16 June 2016, resolved to seek NSW Government funding in 2016-17 for an options study for the provision of water and sewerage services to Scotland Island and write to the Member for Pittwater, the Hon. Rob Stokes MP to seek his support for the project.

Actions:

- SIRA will continue to liaise with Minister Blair's office, Rob Stokes and the Northern Beaches Council to progress the feasibility study and an appropriate solution to provide sewerage and water to the Scotland Island community.
- SIRA will provide input into the terms of reference for the feasibility study and inform residents of the outcome when the report is released.

If you are interested in being further involved in this issue and lending a hand, we encourage you to join the Water and Wastewater Group.

Please email Marie Minslow mminslow@bigpond.net.au Water & Wastewater Group Leader