

Water and Wastewater Report

February 2015



Highlights for the year

February 4, 2014

Meeting with Sydney Water held Rob Stokes Office, Mona Vale

Attendees:

Judy Readman, Cass Gye, Bill Gye, Steve Yorke – SIRA, Water and Wastewater

Peter Fisher – Sydney Water – Strategy Manager

Michelle Guido – Sydney Water - Government and Parliamentary Relations Officer

Marina Draper – Sydney Water – Senior Community Relations Advisor

Mark Ferguson – General Manager PWC, Chris Hunt – Director Urban Assets and Infrastructure PWC

Rob Stokes, MP – Pittwater

Jill Dubois – Rob Stoke Office

SEWER

- There is a NSW Government sewerage provision scheme. The Priority Sewerage Program (PSP) is a NSW Government initiative that aims to provide improved wastewater services to unsewered urban villages in environmentally sensitive areas.
- The PSP is funded by the NSW Government and Sydney Water.
- Wastewater services can be achieved for SI using a pressurised sewerage system (al la Dangar Island). This type of system involves tanks and pumps that move wastewater from each property to the street sewer network.
This means that **we do not need a mains water system to operate it.** This is a significant change from the last meeting and all previous discussions.
- Scotland Island is on the PSP Priority 2 list. The list is determined by the EPA. Sydney Water has worked through and completed what was on the Priority 1 list (except for Menangle and Menangle Park). There are now 3 communities including, Scotland Island, remaining on the P2 list.
- Sydney Water's Operating Licence comes up for renewal for 2016 – 2020 and this is determined by IPART (Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal).
- PWC will be involved in setting the regulations about resident access to the system and what is required

WATER

- There is no provision for existing developments such as Scotland Island.
- The set up we have now is considered a “private connection” with Pittwater Council, who is responsible for the water line from Church Point to the Island and then SIRA is responsible for the line around the island.
- Currently Sydney Water’s responsibility ends at the Church Point connection
- The cost of setting up a water main is cost prohibitive. Even to change the current line to a larger bore underneath Pittwater would cost approximately \$60 million and the residents would have to fund this entirely.
- The conclusion on this is that the Residents will need to come up with alternative ideas to improve the water system on the Island

ACTIONS from meeting

- Rob Stokes to continue to lobby IPART and Sydney Water to make sure Scotland Island remains on the PSP list
- SIRAC will need to consult and inform the community about the proposal and gather feedback and questions and assess what the broad community consensus is.

August 2014 (update on PSP)

- A submission was made on behalf of SIRA that Sydney Water retain responsibility for delivery of the Priority Sewage Program as part of their operating license. (ref. SIRA IPART submission 0814 V2.pdf)

January 2015 (update on PSP)

- A concern was raised that Sydney Water was going to be released from the PSP as part of their operating license by IPART
- A PR Strategy was created and a letter campaign (ref. SIRA Humphries Wastewater Services.pdf) was sent to various politicians and members of IPART and EPA. The community was informed via various channels with a call to action (ref. SRA Wasterwater Call to Action Communique.pdf) and SIRA Q&A. The community was encouraged to lobby the MP’s and PWCouncil.

February 2015 (update on PSP)

- IPART representative has advised that the draft package with their recommendations will be released at 10am Tuesday, February 10 on their website.
- A Public Forum is scheduled for March 30 to present their findings and take questions. Approx. one week later in April submissions are due.
- In May a final recommendation will go to the Minister for acceptance or refusal.