

September 5, 2015

The Hon. Niall Blair
Minister for Lands and Water
GPO Box 5341
Sydney NSW 2001

E office@blair.minister.nsw.gov.au



Dear Mr Blair

Scotland Island Residents' Association is a representative body of the residents of Scotland Island, a suburb of Sydney located near Mona Vale and just across the water from Church Point.

Scotland Island is the only suburb of Sydney that has not been connected to mains water or sewerage. With 357 residential properties and a population of approximately 1000 residents this creates a significant health risk and environmental impact on the surrounding Pittwater area. A recent survey of residents indicates that 96% of the 383 respondents want the sewerage connected at a cost similar to that incurred by Dangar Island residents.

The recent IPART Sydney Water Corporation Operating Licence - End of Term Review; Water Licensing — Report to the Minister May 2015 proposed the following change to Sydney Water's operating licence:

"Clarify the requirements placed on Sydney Water in respect to the remaining schemes within the Priority Sewerage Program (PSP). We have recommended that Sydney Water co-operate and participate in a recommended review to examine the priority and funding options of the remaining schemes."

Specifically Recommendation 2:

"That the Government undertake a review of the PSP to determine if remaining schemes are still a priority and if so, the timing, the form of delivery and funding for such schemes."

While Scotland Island has been identified under the PSP, there is no schedule for the works to be undertaken. Sydney Water clearly has the financial capacity to implement the system without adding any additional financial burden to its current customers. In a recent press release (SW354 06/15) it stated that it has the ability to give \$100 rebates to its existing customers.

There is a history of undertakings made by the current NSW Government sewer Scotland Island. For example in January 2011, just before becoming the Premier of NSW Barry O'Farrell wrote (in <http://www.urbanaffairs.com.au/downloads/2011-3-23-4.pdf>): "The NSW Liberals and Nationals will fast-track the connection of sewerage ... clearing most of the Keneally Labor Government's Priority Sewerage Program backlog, We will also ensure remaining areas such as Austral, West Hoxton, Menangle, Menangle Park, Nattai and **Scotland Island** are connected to the sewer as a matter of priority."

In December 2012, the **NSW Government Northern Beaches Regional Action Plan** made a clear commitment to "Better manage waste water and improve ocean water quality including upgrades to waste water and sewerage treatment facilities for **Scotland Island**", (page 13). And also "The provision of wastewater services to **Scotland Island** is a matter of priority ..." (page 14).

On Monday August 24, representatives of the Scotland Island Residents' Association met with our local NSW State Government member, the Hon. Rob Stokes, Member for Pittwater. At that meeting a proposal was put forward to establish a Scotland Island Wastewater Working Group consisting of representatives of Sydney Water, Pittwater Council, the Scotland Island Residents' Association and Rob Stokes electoral office. A document setting out some broad Terms of Reference for this group is being prepared by Rob Stokes' office with the first meeting being proposed sometime in mid-October.

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Scotland Island Residents' Association requests the Government to direct Sydney Water under the *State Owned Corporations Act 1989 (NSW)* to schedule the installation of sewerage services on Scotland Island within this current licence term.

Scotland Island Residents' Association requests a meeting with the Minister to discuss the health and environmental issues associated with the lack of an accessible sewerage system; the proximity of the main sewerage line only 200 metres away at Church Point and similarities to the installation of sewerage services on Dangar Island in the Hawkesbury.

We look forward to meeting with you and providing additional information outlining the necessity of a mains sewerage system in this area of Pittwater.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bill Gye', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bill Gye OAM
President
Scotland Island Residents' Association