

Water and Wastewater Report

May 31, 2016



Wastewater

There have been two meetings to progress the provision of sewerage services to Scotland Island since the last Water and Wastewater report. A meeting was held in Minister Niall Blair's office on 31 March 2016 and a meeting was conducted with the local member Rob Stokes on 8 April 2016.

SIRA had met with Minister Blair on 26 November 2015 to reinforce the need 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.

The 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.

The 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 NSW Government to this project through the Northern Beaches Regional Action Plan in 2012 was confirmed by Rob Stokes. PS Solutions presented a concept plan, Flow Systems were able to give examples of work 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 a third of the cost quoted by Sydney Water. Actions from the meeting were:

- undertaking a feasibility study of an alternative affordable solution to water and wastewater is justified.
- terms of reference for a feasibility study needs to be developed (all parties to contribute)

- Rob Stokes agreed to seek funding for the feasibility study from the State Government. He has since written to Minister Blair about this matter.
- A proposal to be submitted to Council by the Council staff to act as the procurer for the feasibility study

Next steps:

- Follow up with Minister Blair's office regarding the actions from 31 March meeting
- Follow up with Council regarding their role in procuring the feasibility study.

Water – Emergency Water

Several issues have been raised that have overlap with the Finance and Membership Committee including the provision of emergency water to minors, the provision of water to non-members, the funds held by SIRA for major repairs or replacement of the emergency water line, ongoing maintenance of the emergency water line, the current charge out rates for water and the administration fee paid to water monitors. A separate meeting will be held to address these issues.