

Waste Water Survey

The single survey question asked was:

“Do you support a sewerage system for Scotland Island, on the condition that the only cost is to connect your household plumbing system to the Sydney Water System?”

Total number of Responses: 383

No: 17 Yes: 366

Comments

There were 100 comments made. 6 of these were associated with those who chose NO and 94 were associated with those who chose YES. See below:

VOTE	<i>Comments connected to the 17 NO votes</i>
No	1. We have gone backwards from the intention to have full mains and sewerage system. Appalling mismanagement by SIRA. We were meant to have mains water years ago. A pathetic compromise, as usual.
No	2. I worry that when mains water eventually comes, native trees and plants will die from overuse of water in gardens. Mains water and sewerage connection also removes an obstacle for building development. Island life will change dramatically.
No	3. I have no faith in macerators and small pipes - they are prone to breakdowns and delays that can affect multiple households. The health issues have been exaggerated and require further research to establish the true picture.
No	4. Please tell us the costs first
No	5. My Septic and water works fine to hell with the alarmists!
No	6. If we are not given any idea of what it will cost us I am tempted to keep it as it is. Then it gets pumped out into the ocean anyway. I had a tour around north head sewage plant and was not impressed!

Vote	<i>Comments connected to the 366 YES votes</i>
Yes	1. Absolutely.
Yes	2. We have been waiting for 35 years since promised, enough is enough, just do it!
Yes	3. The environmental benefits to Pittwater as a whole are paramount. This is not just an island issue. It is a Pittwater issue.
Yes	4. A better environment for all is the ultimate objective.
Yes	5. A must to protect the waterway
Yes	6. Please get this waste water system set up as soon as possible. We have been waiting 15 years for it!

Vote	Comments connected to the 366 YES votes
Yes	7. Very supportive especially given the Danger island as a test case. The benefits to the island and surrounding water may be difficult to quantify but I hope that most residents are able to recognize those benefits.
Yes	8. A sewage connection would be the single best thing to happen to the island ever.....just to reclaim our summer evenings from the mosquitos would make it worthwhile
Yes	9. It would surely be best to connect a fresh water system at the same time, rather than do it at a later time at what would no doubt be a much greater cost?
Yes	10. I believe it is absolutely essential for a number of reasons, including health of residents and of the local flora that I believe is suffering badly because of excess water and additives to the soil.
Yes	11. We have been concerned for many years that the dying trees around our property and on the adjacent reserve may be due to septic sewage run off. We fully support having a sewerage system installed on the island
Yes	12. The environmental and health benefits far outweigh the cost and inconvenience. During rainy periods much of the run off from properties is contaminated by waste. The septic systems are also affecting the bush and trees.
Yes	13. The current septic systems and the resulting run off present an ongoing public health risk that must be addressed.
Yes	14. The answer is yes, but I feel strongly that we need to have an indication of time frame, or at least an informed best estimate of the time frame for installation. If we can conclude that the likely time frame is 10 years hence, then residents can make better decisions about alternatives in the meantime. Perhaps the community should be researching and collaborating on an on-property interim solution. We don't want the current quagmire until 2025!
Yes	15. I think the cost of connecting to the system should be minimal- whereas connecting to mains water and meeting Syd Water standard for that would require a significant plumbing upgrade for most Island houses
Yes	16. I would also like to see an investigation into the idea to combine trenches for water, sewerage, electricity and fibre.
Yes	17. The island can't handle all our sewage.
Yes	18. This needs urgent action for health reasons. We've waited too long
Yes	19. The devil is in the detail. The island would benefit from a sewage upgrade and I support that provide we have all the detail available or assumptions verified including: -Type - A smaller system suited to a small population perhaps without mains water. Also it seems sensible to review newer systems on offer prior to selecting the Dangar Island alternative. Likewise opportunities and cost for the inclusion of other services in the implementation phase should be considered (water, gas) - Cost for installation and continued use. I agree that any cost beyond the individual hook up must go back to the community for approval.

Vote	Comments connected to the 366 YES votes
Yes	20. Bring it on. We need it now!
Yes	21. It can't come soon enough!
Yes	22. Both our health and the environment are suffering due to septic runoff. It is long overdue.
Yes	23. I support this for health reasons, run off is unhealthy. Additional reasons include reduction of mosquitoes, unsightly tanks, need to have improved system. It's time to embrace modern technology. I'm also sick of paying for a permit to have a septic tank when I would prefer sewerage system. Sydney water is reported saying we are not their customer. I am a customer of Sydney Water paying rates for several other properties in Sydney. I see this as a case of discrimination and perhaps this is one benefit we can achieve with the current State government.
Yes	24. Somewhat unclear question. "Do you support a sewerage system (assume not septic tanks!!) is one issue. Conditional cost issue is another. Whatever. I support proper, healthy, efficient sewerage, which we don't have currently, unlike the vast majority of ratepayers across the greater Sydney settlement.
Yes	25. This is extremely important. The current situation is pretty disgraceful, with raw sewage flowing along the roads nearly everyday. This is a health hazard and an environmental disaster, which would never be tolerated on the mainland.
Yes	26. ASAP
Yes	27. This is a no brainer. The amenity and health of the island and surrounding waterways means this is an essential development
Yes	28. fully support the connect to the sewerage. Only wish it would come yesterday as the very expensive two stage (apparently which will be environmentally inadequate) system we are currently installing will be then redundant, but knowing the passage of time to get anything done by authorities on the island it will probably be an antique by the time Sydney Water makes any move.
Yes	29. This naturally dependent on costing to connect but also information on what the ongoing rates charges from Sydney Water for the provision of the service? Also, will there be an "opt out" provision for those with a properly functioning two-stage treatment system with adequate and operative dissipation trenches?
Yes	30. I believe many of our spotted gums are dying from our septic run-off and that proper sewerage would be much healthier for the environment.
Yes	31. We've had too many Christmas and other holidays where we have lots of visitors ruined by an overloaded septic tank.
Yes	32. The ability for the island to sustain current On site waste management is limited. The blocks are not big enough to support a full time resident population even with the upgraded systems. This would do a lot for the amenity of the island as a whole.
Yes	33. As long as the cost is not prohibitive, it would be good to know what the actual cost to the Danger Island residents was per household so we have some kind of figure in mind, is it hundreds or more?

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Yes	34. The health benefits alone make this imperative. My children are no longer young, but when they were there were many visits to the local GP for giardia treatment which he said was due to the overflow of septic tanks, including septic runoff into the water. Really, do we want to continue to live in Third World conditions?
Yes	35. The benefits will accrue to all residents in the form of elimination of smells that occur from time to time when septic systems are used.
Yes	36. Should have happened a long time ago
Yes	37. I would be willing to bear additional costs, e.g. Decommissioning old system, within reason.
Yes	38. Long overdue
Yes	39. ASAP
Yes	40. This would be of great benefit to Scotland Island. I am sick of the sewerage water being run down onto the public roads and it is of great concern to the health of my two young children. Who think that playing in puddles is fun but it is not fun when it is sewerage.
Yes	41. This question is loaded. I support a sewerage system for Scotland Island REGARDLESS of cost. My view is based on ecological grounds as well as the fact that the current system has introduced much more water to the island than it can cope with. As a result we have a problem with White fungus rot in Spotted gums and have recently witnessed what happens when they can't cope with excess water and wind. SIRA sells water but is not concerned about disposal of water especially from those residents who have a permanent booking.
Yes	42. I strongly support this. I would like to see some return for the taxes we pay, which is the same as anyone on the mainland. Wouldn't it be nice to walk home in this beautiful place without the smell of everyone's sewerage?
Yes	43. When sewerage is provided I think mains pressure water should also be provided at the same time. Mains water and sewerage services are not a luxury.....they are basic services provided to EVERY citizen of the Sydney Metro Area.
Yes	44. Once connected, there will be on-going service charges by Sydney Water - which I also agree with.
Yes	45. I believe reticulated water should be done at the same time - surely it would save money overall to do both at once. If the cost to property owners is expected to be significant, then concessional loans should be made available to assist people to finance this much-needed improvement to Island conditions.
Yes	46. It is remarkable that in 2015 there are still un-sewered areas of Sydney. This basic infrastructure should be installed as a matter of priority.
Yes	47. Bring it on!
Yes	48. Although a different subject - I also support connection to mains water supply

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Yes	49. I would also like a reasonable amount of time allowed to hook into the system... like maybe 3 years.
Yes	50. It is imperative for the water quality in Pittwater
Yes	51. Due to septic run off into Pittwater I chose NOT to swim in the water around the Island or eat fish caught from around the Island. I have known children to get ear infection and other sickness when they have first moved on to the Island - we suspect due to swimming. The septic issue puts this Island into a third world environment. You only have to smell it after rain - and that is washing straight into Pittwater.
Yes	52. Sad you didn't use this tool to refine further the sentiments of the residents? Perhaps you would have found as is the case with me - that i would be happy to contribute to the clean future of our waterways and island roads by reducing what can only be described as a third world solution at best - held on to by those who had power for too long and wanted no change - short sighted small minded people who will always resist change SIRA push for this as hard as you can - please
Yes	53. I do not mind if I have to pay a relatively small one off premium to have this facility installed for the island. Importantly, I am also very keen for mains water to be installed, even though I know it is not part of this current enquiry. While you are getting community opinion on sewerage, why not simultaneously involve Sydney Water and the community in the issue of mains water? Let's test the water again, as it were.
Yes	54. VERY ENTHUSIASTIC!!
Yes	55. Absolutely, yes please, as soon as possible!
Yes	56. We need the sewerage system for the sake of water quality and to keep our spotted gums healthy - or rather, to restore them to health.
Yes	57. Danger Island had a sewerage system at no cost to the householders
Yes	58. It is paramount and critical that the Island and the surrounding environment benefit from a very much needed infrastructure .
Yes	59. Another important benefit of getting grey and black waste water off your property and off the island is that it reduces the likelihood of land slippage, sinkhole formation and mudslides.
Yes	60. This connection ha been promised for years and it is time that the state government actually delivered on those promises and pressure Sydney Water to deliver.
Yes	61. i support even if there is a small cost say up to \$1,000 as the result will be an improvement for the local environment
Yes	62. And absolute necessity in my opinion.
Yes	63. Either this or support to provide a better septic waste solution. The land has too many properties for the amount of septics, and trees fall and die because of septic and grey water run-off. Erosion is also a big issue. There has to be a more optimal solution, It may not be sewerage either but possibly a combination.

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Yes	64. Environmental concerns, reduced health risks and anything that reduces the number of mosquitoes is worthwhile. Also, pumping out of septic systems is extremely difficult and expensive. A one off connection fee to each household is acceptable under these circumstances. When sewerage systems were introduced on the mainland, households were given 12-18 months to connect before it became compulsory.
Yes	65. Yes this is totally long overdue. It will make a huge difference to the state of the island. No longer will we be subject to the smell of sewerage and the potential health problems.
Yes	66. Sewerage system is long overdue. The health and related benefits mean that this basic public infrastructure should be provided at the earliest possible time. 'The tyranny of a majority' should not be decisive if this survey produces a majority result against such a system. That is, the health and related benefits to the community should not be subject to opinion which may be related to cost pressures. Therefore, efforts should be made to mitigate costs for all, with particular efforts for low income / low wealth households.
Yes	67. Very strongly support!
Yes	68. it is about time Scotland Island is treated like the rest of the residence in the greater Sydney region and are given 21st century sanitation.
Yes	69. I think the benefits to the environment and people's health outweigh the same cost for each resident
Yes	70. However, I am a renter, therefore this decision, and cost, lie with my landlord.
Yes	71. It is vital and absolutely urgent this proceed. The island geology soil type is not suitable for the large scale use of septic as it stands. Water and soil Pollution and swarms of mosquitoes are a result and cannot remain the status quo for obvious health and environmental reasons. So let's do the right thing!
Yes	72. It can only help to improve the environment and reduce health issues, as well as remove all those wet pitches along the roads, making it easier for council to address drainage issues.
Yes	73. Absolutely would love a sewerage system on the Island and feel it is essential to protect our environment. Please proceed!
Yes	74. I strongly support the introduction of a sewerage system. If it is true that the system would significantly reduce mosquitoes and would have other environmental benefits (e.g. healthier trees) then I would even be prepared to contribute a few thousand to the overall cost of installation (but don't tell Sydney Water that!) I mention that here just to indicate the strength of my support. Well done SIRA for being on the case, and thanks for all your hard work.
Yes	75. Please also lobby for mains water
Yes	76. The sooner the better please!!

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Yes	77. We would consider a contribution to the cost if it meant the difference between getting a sewerage system and not. We believe this is a priority issue for the island, we face south west and have clay soil and our current system though we've spent \$13k on upgrades isn't ideal.
Yes	78. I think it would have significant health, sustainability and environmental benefits - it will increase quality of life and add value to the island.
Yes	79. Unequivocally yes. The rest of the country seems to obtain a significant benefit, no reason why we wouldn't.
Yes	80. Time to upgrade from third world sewage system
Yes	81. We are sick of council expecting inspections and changing the goal posts year by year.
Yes	82. Island soil is clay and does not support septic systems Currently after heavy rains septic overflow can be seen on roads and results on pollution of Pittwater Its a health hazard that needs urgent attention
Yes	83. The serious health issues attached to septic trenches, in soil which won't absorb septic waste, is makes this an absolute priority.
Yes	84. We have had a home on Scotland Island for 30 years this is a no brainer. Let's follow the model of Dangar Island for all those environmental issues gained plus the health and safety of the residents. Thanks to all the hardworking community that's putting this together through SIRA.
Yes	85. We'd like to see Dangar Island's experience of replacing their septic systems with a mains sewerage system replicated on Scotland Island. We love the benefits. The technology seems pretty smart and we are happy to bear the cost of connecting to the new system. We do have a wastewater system in place on our property but it is nowhere near as effective as connecting to the Sydney Water system. Please provide this service to our community. We have waited long enough. Thank you.
Yes	86. Absolutely!!!
Yes	87. Perhaps fund raising events such as fairs concerts dinners etc. could be held to bring down this initial cost this may benefit some households that are struggling a bit
Yes	88. ASAP
Yes	89. It is not sufficient however, to bring just sewage. Running town water must be part of the deal.
Yes	90. This is absolutely critical and needs support from Sydney Water for health and environmental reasons.
Yes	91. ASAP. The ground water on the island is an environmental disaster and a health hazard
Yes	92. Present septic systems on the island are totally inadequate and most unsafe. Although quarterly inspections are carried out for the council, these no way reflect

Vote	<i>Comments connected to the 366 YES votes</i>
	the reality of the situation. Most septic systems are too old, trenches clogged up which discharge Straight into Pittwater when it rains.
Yes	93. For sure. We need a system so we have clean beaches and ocean.
Yes	94. My present Super Treat system incorporates a macerator pump which was replaced with a new one last year.