

## WATER & WASTEWATER REPORT

APRIL, 2015



IPART's Draft Operating Licence for Sydney Water Corporation recommends that the Priority Sewerage Program (PSP) be retained as part of Sydney Water's obligations and that Scotland Island is included in that program.

The W&W Subcommittee recommends that SIRAC conduct a Community Survey to determine opinion on the provision of wastewater infrastructure on the Island.

### Background

Sydney Water has said that a sewerage system was offered to Scotland Island many years ago, but the community was unsure so the project did not go ahead. We need to be clear about what the significant majority of our community want.

At our recent AGM Ron Barrelle described Dangar Island's experience of the replacement of their individual septic systems with a mains sewerage system. The technology used on Dangar would be the same for Scotland Island. This is a small pipe pressure system (approx. 50 mm, buried 750mm underground) with a macerator pump installed at each property.

On Dangar Island the sewerage system brought considerable environmental benefit, health risk reduction and significantly decreased mosquitoes. Residents connected over a one-year period for the cost to upgrade and hook up their home plumbing to the system.

### IPART Meeting

1. Presentation made at IPART Public Meeting by Bill Gye, and statements made by Island residents, Steve Yorke and Dr Michael Greenaway. Also in attendance Shar Jones, John Cave, Heather Greenaway.
2. Presentation to IPART included: Who and where we are; a brief history of this issue; the environmental and health effect of the current situation; the recorded commitment from the Liberal Government that they would connect Scotland Island to the main sewerage system; we need this done (or started) in the next 5 years and we do not want to pay any more than all the other recipients of the Priority Sewerage Program (i.e. just connection costs).
3. Regardless of whether the PSP remains in the Sydney Water Licence, Sydney Water will only do this if: The Government "directs" them to do it (i.e. makes them do it) under the "*State Owned Corporations Act 1989*"), **OR** if the Government funds it, **OR** the Residents pay.
4. SIRA followed up the Forum with a written submission which was also sent to relevant Ministers. **See attached letter.**

### Recommendations

SIRA carries out the Wastewater Survey

SIRA to meet with Rob Stokes to progress sewerage connection for Scotland Island residents

SIRA arranges meeting with relevant Ministers following discussion with Rob Stokes.

Cass Gye  
Marie Minslow  
Co-Chairs  
Water & Wastewater Subcommittee