




WIDE BAY
water



A Business Unit of  Fraser Coast
REGIONAL COUNCIL

ENGAGEMENT BOOKLET – FRASER COAST REGION

**MAJOR SEWAGE TREATMENT
PLANT CAPACITY INCREASE
FOR HERVEY BAY SITE SELECTION PROJECT**



Fraser Coast Regional Council is engaging with the community to seek feedback on a range of options for Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) upgrade locations and release of the additional recycled water generated in order to meet the needs of our growing population.

The consultation activities will also explore new opportunities for recycling water, (regardless of which treatment plant location is upgraded), in order to add to the current expansive irrigation program with turf farms, cane fields and hardwood forests, one of Australia's largest.

The engagement opportunities are spread over two stages including:

- > A Community Panel made up of a representative sample of people from across the Fraser Coast region who will deliberate on the three options that are being explored and consider new alternative options;
- > Wider community engagement involving Workshops, Community Information Stalls, Site Tours and Key Stakeholder Interviews.

We want to hear from you about your thoughts on the sewage treatment plant upgrades and opportunities for recycling water in the Hervey Bay area.

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

Currently there are a number of treatment plants and recycled water management systems located in the Hervey Bay area including:

- > three STPs;
- > recycled water storage dams;
- > recycled water distribution pipe network and pump stations; and
- > four hardwood plantation (and pasture) irrigation schemes managed by WBW.

The current recycled water scheme also includes reuse by private entities, including irrigation for sugar cane, crops, golf courses, turf farms, and water offtakes for dust suppression.

The population of Hervey Bay and the Fraser Coast is increasing. Over the next 25 years the population of Fraser Coast is expected to increase on average by 1%¹ per annum to a total population of approximately 125,000 people by 2036.

The STP at Pulgul is close to capacity and action must begin now to ensure that its capacity is not exceeded by growth in the region.

There has already been significant work undertaken as part of the site selection process for the major STP capacity increase. WBW commissioned a site selection study to evaluate options to achieve the capacity increase. The study completed by Kellogg, Brown and Root sought "to assess the Hervey Bay sewerage and recycled waste management system to identify a recommended site for the augmentation to cater for the expected increase in connections". The options assessed involved the two STPs; Pulgul and Nikenbah, and how to manage the increase in recycled water.

A copy of the site selection study report can be found at frasercoast.engagementhub.com.au and click on the Major sewage treatment plant capacity increase for Hervey Bay site selection project page.

The three primary options that have arisen from the study are being shared with the wider community to seek feedback on each of them so that Council can consider the best approach for the future. Depending which option is chosen, sewage can be redirected from one catchment to another to avoid the treatment plants that aren't upgraded from exceeding capacity. The site options also have an impact on how the recycled water coming from the treatment plant is managed.

The options are:

OPTION 1

Nikenbah STP – 100% reuse

All flows at Nikenbah go into the recycled water scheme

- > Upgrade Nikenbah STP and expand the reuse scheme to reuse 100% of all additional recycled water that is generated in Hervey Bay. Nikenbah must reuse 100% of recycled water as it does not have access to an outfall. This means that the reuse scheme would have to be continuously expanded to match growth.

¹ This is based on Office of Government Statistician's projections in 2018.

OPTION 2

Pulgul STP – Outfall

New outfall offset from the Marina is constructed and the existing recycled water scheme continues to operate as it currently does.

- > Upgrade Pulgul STP and build a new outfall several hundred metres from the Marina. The existing reuse scheme would continue to operate as it currently does and would not be expanded for roughly another 20 years until an upgrade to the Nikenbah STP becomes necessary.

OPTION 3

Pulgul STP – Outfall + expanded reuse

New outfall offset from the Marina is constructed and the recycled water scheme is expanded whenever beneficial opportunities arise.

- > Upgrade Pulgul STP, build a new outfall several hundred metres from the Marina and continue to expand the reuse scheme. Having a new outfall that can effectively disperse recycled water with minimal impact to the environment builds flexibility into the reuse scheme. This means that the reuse scheme does not have to expand immediately to match growth and WBW can actively investigate and implement beneficial opportunities to expand.

An additional component of this project is to identify community ideas for alternative opportunities for the use of recycled water.

DEFINITIONS

WHAT IS AN OUTFALL?

An outfall is the recycled water exit point within a recycled water management framework. This is commonly referred to as 'discharge' or 'release' location. An outfall could be located into a creek or it could be a seabed pipeline discharging into the ocean.

A consideration in choosing an outfall location is that the location should be able to disperse any nutrients so that they don't have a negative impact on the environment.

In Hervey Bay, the Eli Creek and Pulgul STPs both have licenced outfalls for the release of recycled water to waterways.

WHAT IS RECYCLED WATER?

Recycled water is the product of a multi-stage mechanical, biological and chemical sewage treatment process.

WHAT IS EFFLUENT?

Effluent is an old term used to describe the product of the sewage treatment process. 'Recycled water' is now used whenever the treatment is comprehensive enough to allow for safe reuse.

WHAT IS THE HERVEY BAY SEWAGE TREATMENT NETWORK?

A map showing the different aspects of the sewerage treatment system and catchment areas can be found on the project's webpage at frasercoast.engagementhub.com.au

An online interactive map can also be found on mapping.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/main-map-index.html

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

A series of documents have been prepared to provide additional information about the Hervey Bay sewage treatment scheme:

- > Fraser Coast Region What happens after I flush: Know your Sewage Network (less technical material)
- > Fraser Coast Region Expanding the Hervey Bay Sewage Network: Options for STP Upgrade (the focus of this consultation)
- > Fraser Coast Region Sewage Network: All you need to know about the upgrade (detailed, more technical and printed on request)

and are available to download at frasercoast.engagementhub.com.au and click on Major sewage treatment plant capacity increase for Hervey Bay site selection or by visiting the following locations:

- > Council's Customer Service Centres at Maryborough and Hervey Bay
- > Branch libraries at Maryborough and Hervey Bay
- > Community Information stalls outlined below



HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

Council is aware that an upgrade to a sewage treatment network in the Hervey Bay area is of great interest to the general community, local businesses and other government stakeholders. There will be a number of opportunities for the community and stakeholders to become involved in the project.

Community Engagement activities include:

Information stalls – will be held across Hervey Bay

- > Saturday 21 September 2019, 7.00am – 1.00pm, Pier Park Community Market, 6-8 Pilot St, Urangan
- > Sunday 22 September 2019, 6.00am – 12.00 noon, Koala Markets, 15 Kruger Court, Urangan

SITE TOURS

Ever wondered what happens with sewage when it leaves your property? Ever considered what infrastructure is needed and what regulations that Council is governed by in order to manage the health of the community and environment?

Join us for an educational site tour that will help answer many of those questions and more. The schedule for site tours is:

Site tour 1: Monday 23 September 2019

Site tour 2: Tuesday 24 September 2019

Site tour 3: Wednesday 25 September 2019

RSVP before 20 September 2019 by email: WBWengagement@frasercoast.qld.gov.au or telephone: (07) 3217 6849.

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS:

Three community workshops will be held where residents and stakeholders can come along to find out more about the Major Sewage Treatment Plant Capacity Increase for Hervey Bay Site Selection project.

The Community Workshops will be held at the Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre, 22 Charles Street Pialba on:

- > Tuesday 24 September 2019, 6.30pm - 9.30pm
- > Thursday 26 September 2019, 9.00am – 12.00 noon
- > Thursday 26 September 2019, 1.00pm – 4.00pm

The workshops are fully catered.

RSVP before 20 September 2019 by email WBWengagement@frasercoast.qld.gov.au or phone (07) 3217 6849.

E-CONTACT DATABASE

To receive project updates sign up to our E-Contact Database. Your contact details will not be used for any other purpose.

To register, please email the Project Team at WBWengagement@frasercoast.qld.gov.au

Feedback – Have your say on the construction of a Major Sewage Treatment Plant Capacity Increase project by completing a feedback form at WBWengagement@frasercoast.qld.gov.au

Feedback closes at 5pm Tuesday 8 October 2019.

ENGAGEMENT TIMELINE

21 September – 8 October 2019 – Consultation activities

Early October 2019 – Analyse and report on consultation feedback

Late November 2019 – Consultation Outcomes Snapshot distributed for information

Mid December 2019 – the Major Sewage Treatment Plant Capacity Increase for Hervey Bay Site Selection Project Community Consultation report to Council.

HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, FEEDBACK OR NEED MORE INFORMATION?

CONTACT THE PROJECT TEAM AT WBWENGAGEMENT@FRASERCOAST.QLD.GOV.AU

OR SPEAK TO A PROJECT TEAM MEMBER BY PHONE ON 07 3217 6849

WIDE BAY
water 
A Business Unit of  Fraser Coast
REGIONAL COUNCIL