

Appendix 11
Community Consultation Records

STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME ONGOING ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY REPORT

2025

STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME

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STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME

2025 Engagement Overview

Summary table:

	Autumn
Mail out to households	577
Community information session	7 attendees
Virtual session	Cancelled – no registrations

As of April 2025, the team also provided written updates and attended two meetings of the local community organisation, Stuarts Point and District Community Organisation (SPADCO).

Engagement summary report April 2025 – November 2025

This document is a working draft and will be revised after each information session. It will include an overview of each information session along with communication collateral.

The sessions are planned quarterly but may include extra meetings if needed as the project progresses.

Autumn 2025

Purpose: The purpose of the session was to provide the community with an update on the project and offer an opportunity to engage directly with the project team while allowing attendees to have their questions answered.

Description: The project team held a community information session at the Stuarts Point Community Hall from 5pm to 6pm, featuring a presentation followed by an opportunity for attendees to ask questions. A virtual session was also planned for those unable to attend in person, but due to no registrations it was cancelled.

Context: The community information session was held to update the public on the progress of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), including changes to the dunal discharge area. The session also aimed to inform attendees that the project has secured additional funding from the Australian Government's Housing Support Program.

Materials: Included copies of the community flyer and a PowerPoint presentation.

Community participation: Seven community members attended the community drop-in session, and none registered for the virtual information sessions.

Project team:

- Wes Trotter: Director Utilities
- Bill Dubelaar: Lead Project Engineer
- Rennie Ferguson: Senior Project Manager
- Kate Baartz: Communications and Engagement



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- Ash Soanes: Communications and Engagement

New questions to add to FAQs:

Q. What should I do if my septic tank is failing?

A. Engage a qualified plumber or contact Environmental Health team for advice. Additionally, there is information about septic tanks and how to keep your system operating well on our website.

Our Environmental Health team also undertake regular inspections, they can be contacted on 02 6566 3200 or via email ksc@kempsey.nsw.gov.au during our normal operating hours - Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 4.30pm.

Note: Many of the questions were similar to what we had received prior. We captured only new questions that weren't already addressed in the FAQs document.

Summary

This summary provides an overview of the concerns, questions, and feedback raised during the Stuarts Point Information Session held on 3 April 2025 at the Stuarts Point Community Hall. The project team was present from 5:00 pm, with the presentation starting shortly after. The session concluded at 6:15 pm, as a few attendees stayed to discuss matters with the team.

The session offered local residents an opportunity to engage directly with the project team, raise issues, and seek clarification on the project. Please note that due to a faulty projector, two laptops were set up for attendees to view the presentation. We will address this issue before the next session.

The session addressed topics including environmental impacts, sewerage management, infrastructure, and development. Key concerns focused on the effects of dunal discharge on the beach and river, the extension of the EIS, and the use of treated water for irrigation. Attendees raised questions about the potential for future development, the impact on the village's character, Council transparency, sewerage costs in rates, and the tender process.

Environmental impact questions and concerns

- Concerns about dunal discharge: attendees raised concerns about the impact of the dunal discharge plans on the beach and river, including potential effects on marine life such as crabs and pippis.
 - *This is part of the EIS biodiversity investigations.*
- How deep under the river do you go down?
 - *8m below.*
- Beach damage impact: attendee asked if the current damage to the beach from the storms had made a difference to the plans.
 - *The answer was no.*



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- EIS extension: an attendee asked why the project was granted another 12 months for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and enquired about when the extension would finish.
 - *The reason for the extension was that the project area has changed with a different configuration for the dunal discharge site being slightly outside the original area and needing additional assessment. The 12mth extension was granted by DPE to avoid having to extend again. The intention is for the EIS to be submitted end of June 2025.*
- Access to reports: when do we get to see the reports?
 - *Public exhibition will be 28 days open for community comment. We will notify community when this is open for comment.*

Sewerage and wastewater management

- Irrigation and treated water use: Attendees suggested it would be great to use treated water for irrigation to keep the oval green, and enquired whether the treated water would be sold.
 - *It was noted that using and selling the water is an option, but the plant must be capable of handling 100% allocation of wastewater.*
- Treated water distribution: if the treatment plant is in Fisherman's Reach, how does the treated water get to the beach?
 - *Underground pipes.*
- What do people do with septic systems that are failing now?
 - *Question added to FAQs*
- Questions about system capabilities: attendee asked what can't be put down the toilet and whether house systems can handle oils.
 - *They were informed that this information can be accessed on the project website.*
- Drainage and guttering concerns: an attendee mentioned that she was told her issues with drainage and lack of guttering wouldn't be fixed until after the completion of the sewerage scheme.
 - *Team member explained that this isn't the case, and her details have been passed on to the correct person in Council to contact her and address her concerns.*

Project, infrastructure and systems

- Are the designs for the town complete?
 - *Yes.*
- What's the construction period?
 - *18 months.*



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- Will you have a pump station?
 - *No, it will be at the treatment plant.*
- Is it a vacuum system?
 - *No, it's a pressure system.*
- How do we get water quality tested?
 - *Council started water quality testing of the Macleay Arm in 2025.*

Development and its impact on the village concerns

- Concerns about development impact: some attendees expressed fears that the project would ruin the village and change its character, with concerns about the town becoming overdeveloped like Scotts Head or South West Rocks.
- Holiday projections for 12 months and 20 years from now.
- Comment regarding vacant land: developments have been delayed in the past due to a lack of infrastructure. However, with the new sewerage infrastructure, the attendee suspects these developments will proceed.

Funding and Council concerns

- Funding received from the Australian Government for the housing Support Program had mixed feelings.
- Concerns about Council transparency: some attendees raised issues regarding Council's transparency with spending, believing that Council had wasted money. They also emphasised the need for more transparency in publishing costs and questioned where their money was going.
 - *Team member* suggested they look at the annual budget on the Council website.
- Sewerage costs in Council rates: attendees raised the point that sewerage costs are included in their Council rates.
 - *Team member* was shown attendees rates notice and explained the line item was for stormwater, not sewerage.

Tender related questions

- Who won the tender?
 - *The tender hasn't been issued yet, we are working through timing for its release based on EIS submission and general project planning*
- Will only the winning tender will be visible?
 - *Yes, this is correct*
- Is the tender written?



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- Yes
- How many pages are the tenders?
 - *Hundreds*

Actions:

- Pass on attendee details to the appropriate Council team to address questions about drainage and stormwater.
- Update the FAQs with any new questions raised during the session.
- Identify a solution to the projector issues and ensure handouts are available as a backup.

Virtual Information Session

There was one session scheduled via MS Teams, on Friday 4 April 8am with registrations required. The session was cancelled as there were no registrations.

Figure 1 Figure 1 image of Autumn 2025 information session



STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME

Engagement Collateral: Autumn 2025 community update
The following flyer was delivered to all properties within the project area.



Kempsey Shire Council is developing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme as part of the State Significant Development process. The Scheme will service Stuarts Point, Grassy Head and Fishermans Reach and provide a modern, reliable means of collecting and treating sewage and disposing of treated effluent.

Environmental Impact Statement

The detailed site investigations for the dunal discharge area are now complete. This work involved:

- Further geotechnical investigations to better understand the hydrogeology of a changed dunal discharge configuration.
- Infiltration testing of the sand.
- Groundwater modelling of discharge of effluent to the surface over the changed configuration.

The dunal discharge area has been reconfigured as a result of these investigations, and is now a longer, but narrower layout. Conceptual layouts will now be developed to inform the design and environmental assessment to allow the EIS to be updated.

Now the final dunal discharge area has been identified, we are able to undertake additional

flora and fauna surveys of the reconfigured dunal discharge area and complete the biodiversity assessment.

We are on track to finalise and submit the EIS to the NSW Government mid-year.

Funding

We are excited to confirm that the Australian Government has recently announced that Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme is one of several critical infrastructure projects to receive funding from the Housing Support Program.

We applied for and will receive \$45 million to complete the project, and are waiting to receive further information about the deed and milestones for the project.

Project achievements and next steps

2024

Property audits completed and community drop-in sessions held. Studies underway for EIS.

EOI for design and construction of WWTP completed. EIS studies reviewed and areas for further investigation identified.

Early 2025

Detailed dunal discharge investigations and modelling. Dates for community sessions confirmed. Additional biodiversity surveys complete.

Australian Government funding announcement.

Mid 2025

EIS submitted.



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Community Information

At the November 2024 community session, we discussed the timing and frequency of community updates. Attendees agreed that we should continue providing quarterly updates in 2025, with a hard copy community update delivered to all households in Stuarts Point, Fishermans Reach and Grassy Head followed by a face-to-face information session and a virtual information session.

The format for the face-to-face sessions in 2025 is slightly different. Instead of being a drop-in session, the Kempsey Shire Council project team will provide a briefing on where the project is up to. Following this, the team will answer any questions from attendees.

Subscribe to stay up to date
The project page is being updated regularly with frequently asked questions and project information.

Scan the QR code below, scroll to the bottom of the project page and press 'Subscribe to this page' to be notified about updates.



Community information sessions



Thursday 3 April
5pm to 6pm
Stuarts Point Community Hall



Friday 4 April
8am to 8.30am
Virtual via MS Teams



Thursday 26 June
5pm to 6pm
Stuarts Point Community Hall



Friday 27 June
8am to 8.30am
Virtual via MS Teams



Thursday 18 September
5pm to 6pm
Stuarts Point Community Hall



Friday 19 September
8am to 8.30am
Virtual via MS Teams



Thursday 27 November
5pm to 6pm
Stuarts Point Community Hall



Friday 28 November
8am to 8.30am
Virtual via MS Teams

Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme is proudly funded by the NSW Government in association with Kempsey Shire Council.



More information

Additional project information is available by:

- Scanning the QR code
- Visiting Council's website ksc.pub/stuarts-point
- Phoning (02) 6566 3200
- Emailing ksc@kempsey.nsw.gov.au



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Engagement Collateral: Autumn 2025 community presentation



1




2



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EIS update

Progress report



What is happening with the EIS?

- Dunal discharge – final general area has been identified
- Update EIS studies for dunal discharge area
- Additional biodiversity studies in updated discharge area
- Biodiversity – Summer seasonal surveys complete, Autumn underway



3

Dunal discharge

Site Investigation and Feasibility assessment complete





4



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Look ahead for 2025

What happens next




- Complete dunal discharge concept design – mid 2025
- Submit EIS - mid 2025
- Tender WWTP D&C contractor
- Quarterly community information sessions




5

Significant funding secured

Australian Government: Housing Support Program



Secured \$45 million dollars funding from the Australian Government via the Housing Support Program



6

12


Kempsey Shire Council acknowledges the land of the Thunggutti/Dunghutti Nation. We pay respect to Elders past and present. We acknowledge the role of emerging leaders to continue to guide us in the future. We acknowledge the Stolen Generations and the need to change practices to be inclusive. This land always was and always will be Thunggutti/Dunghutti land.




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Community information sessions

2025




Autumn 2025	Winter 2025	Spring 2025	Summer 2025
Thursday 3 April 5pm to 6pm Stuarts Point Community Hall	Thursday 26 June 5pm to 6pm Stuarts Point Community Hall	Thursday 18 September 5pm to 6pm Stuarts Point Community Hall	Thursday 27 November 5pm to 6pm Stuarts Point Community Hall
Friday 4 April 8am to 8.30am Virtual via MS Teams	Friday 27 June 8am to 8.30am Virtual via MS Teams	Friday 19 September 8am to 8.30am Virtual via MS Teams	Friday 28 November 8am to 8.30am Virtual via MS Teams



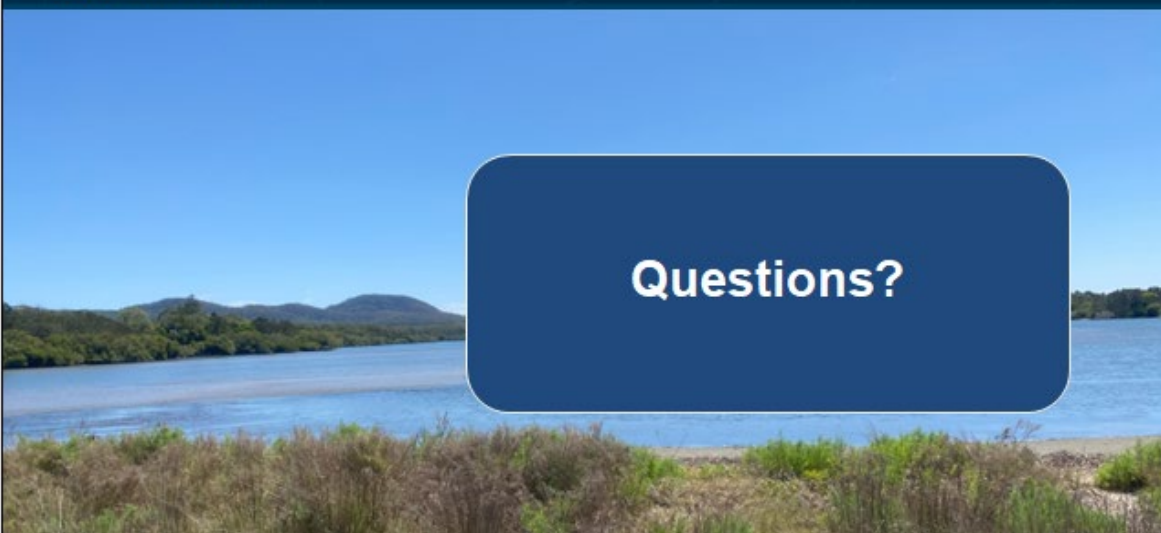
7

Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme

Completion: Late 2026



Questions?



8



STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME ONGOING ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY REPORT

2024

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2024 Engagement Overview



PROJECT UPDATE MAILOUTS

X 4 DELIVERED TO 577
HOUSEHOLDS.



COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS

X3



VIRTUAL INFORMATION SESSIONS

X1 WENT AHEAD
(X2 NO REGISTRATIONS)



IN HOME VISITS

WE MET WITH 541
RESIDENTS AND
HOMEOWNERS ABOUT
PLANNING FOR THE NEW
SYSTEMS

Summary table:

	Autumn	Winter	Spring/Summer
Mail out to households	577	577	577
Community information session	8 attendees	7 attendees	15 attendees
Virtual session	Cancelled – no registrations	Cancelled – no registrations	8 attendees
Property audits	541 property audits completed during February and April 2024		

The team also provided written updates and attended six meetings of the local community organisation, Stuarts Point and District Community Organisation (SPADCO).

Engagement summary report April 2024 – November 2024

This document is a working draft and will be revised after each information session. It will include an overview of each information session along with communication collateral.

The sessions are planned quarterly but may include extra meetings if needed as the project progresses.

Autumn 2024

Purpose: To provide the community an opportunity to speak directly with the project team and have questions answered.

Description: Project team members were available at an easy to access location, Stuarts Point Community Hall. Interested community members could drop by at any time.



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There was also a virtual information session for those unable to attend the face to face session (cancelled).

Context: Property audits had not long wrapped up and attendees appeared to be well informed about the project and process.

Materials: There was a range of materials available including maps of the scheme area, frequently asked questions, homeowner's manuals, and a render of the WWTP design.

Information session: One in-person session was held on Thursday 4 April from 4pm to 7pm at Stuarts Point Community Hall. In total, eight community members attended this drop-in session.

Project team:

- Bill Dubelaar: Lead Project Engineer: Operations
- Rennie Ferguson: Lead Project Engineer: Sewerage
- Kate Baartz: Communications and Engagement
- Ash Soanes: Communications and Engagement
- Ange Peace: Social Impact Assessment

New questions to add to FAQs:

- What are the yellow pegs lining the road along the road?

Note: Many of the questions were similar to what we had received prior. We captured only new questions that weren't already addressed in the FAQs document.

Virtual Information Session

There was one session scheduled via MS Teams, on Friday 5 April 8.30am to 9am with registrations required. The session was cancelled as there were no registrations.

Winter 2024

Purpose: To provide more detailed information to interested residents and business owners and answer questions.

Description: Project team members were available at the Stuarts Point Community Hall, and interested people could drop by at any time within the time slots provided. There was also a virtual information session scheduled, however, no registrations were received so it was cancelled.

Summary

One in-person session was held on Thursday 4 April from 4pm to 7pm at Stuarts Point Community Hall. In total, nine community members attended the drop-in session. The team was able to have detailed conversations with attendees on specific issues including:

- The dunal discharge including a referral from the attendee to the Environmental Defenders Office.



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- Water quality testing.
- General project updates to new homeowners in the area.

Project team:

- Wes Trotter: Director Utilities
- Bill Dubelaar: Lead Project Engineer: Operations
- Kate Baartz: Communications and Engagement

Materials: Copies of the community update and frequently asked questions.

Virtual Information Session: There was a virtual information session via MS Teams available, with registrations required. The session was cancelled as there were no registrations.

Spring/Summer 2024

Purpose: To provide a community update with a presentation and an opportunity to ask questions and speak directly with the project team.

Community participation: 15 community members attended the community drop-in session and eight attended the virtual information sessions.

Project team:

- Wes Trotter: Director Utilities
- Bill Dubelaar: Lead Project Engineer
- Rennie Ferguson: Senior Project Manager
- Kate Baartz: Communications and Engagement
- Ash Soanes: Communications and Engagement

Summary

This summary provides an overview of the concerns, questions, and feedback raised during the Stuarts Point Information Session held on 28 November 2024 at the Stuarts Point Community Hall. The project team were present from 5:00 pm, with the presentation starting at 5:30 pm. The session offered local residents an opportunity to engage with the project team, raise issues, and seek clarification regarding the project.

Topics discussed included potential environmental impacts on the dunes, the costs associated with sewerage services, the feasibility of the project, grant funding, and the long-term effects on the local community, particularly considering the area's low-income status. The team also sought feedback on how the community would prefer to be kept informed about the progress of the project.

Concerns:

- Attendee raised concerns that his house isn't included in the plan.
- Questions about project feasibility, funding availability, and potential impact.
- Question about the coffee rock's impact on the water table.



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- Attendee purchased the house recently and hasn't been privy to plans.
- Raised concerns about powerlines and the need for reassessment.
- Impact from vehicles accessing dunes
- Potential structural changes to the dunes
- Concerns regarding the use of dunnage
- Concerns about the affordability of rent, rate increases, sewerage fees, and the electrical costs to run the pump, given the area's low-income status.

Questions raised:

Dunal discharge:

- Why are summer and winter studies necessary?
- Potential impact on the dunes if dunal discharge rises.
- Service tracks and overuse of the beach.
- Whether a track will go through Grassy Head?
- Concerns about odour, septic effluent discharge, and water discharge safety.

Project costs and completion:

- Whether funding is already secured and project costs, with concerns about local rates being a financial strain.
- Cost to residents: Issues with rising rent, rates, sewerage fee and cost of operating pumps.
- When do we start paying for it?
- Is grant funding a priority for the Council, and will a lack of funding delay completion?
- With the mention of completion in 2026, is that referring to the whole scheme?

Treatment plant:

Questions about the design, noise, flooding impact, and potential subsidence from the new treatment plant.

- What will the treatment plant look like?
- Will it have a noise?
- Will flooding impact the sewerage plant?
- Can the treated water be used for irrigation?

Septic tanks

- Will the old septic tanks be filled-in when decommissioned?
- Will there be subsidence?
- One participant identified they were dissatisfied with planning session – the planner came in telling the resident what they were going to do and the resident said no you are not.



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Community engagement feedback:

- Pamphlets and seasonal info sessions are appreciated.
- Requests for promotion on the Stuarts Point Share page.
- Request for picture to be supplied – request denied on the basis that attendees that gave permission for photo use was for purposes of the project and some attendees did not give permission for their photo to be used.

Other:

Actions:

- Bill to follow up on the requests mentioned above.
- Update the stakeholder register to include those who attended the session.
- Continue engaging with the community in the same manner as in 2024.

Virtual Information Session

There was one session scheduled via MS Teams, on Friday 29 November April 8am to 8:30am with registrations required. In total 8 attendees participated.

Project team:

- Wes Trotter: Utilities Director
- Bill Dubelaar: Lead Project Engineer
- Rennie Ferguson: Senior Project Manager
- Kate Baartz: Communications and Engagement
- Ash Soanes: Communications and Engagement

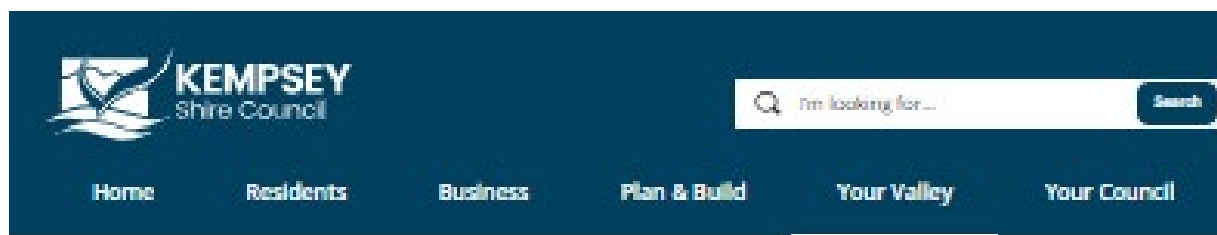
Questions:

- Timelines: in terms of the actual construction phase is it 2026- or will it be after the installation has occurred for the water treatment itself?
- I read somewhere that there had been a blow out in costs? Are the funds still available?
- If the Impact assessment or the detailed assessment shows issues will that impact the project?
- Attendees are happy with current engagement and notifications- currently quarterly updates followed by info session and virtual info session. Attendees were comfortable with this.

Engagement collateral: Project page on Kempsey Shire Council website
<https://www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au/Your-Valley/Ongoing-works-in-the-shire/Major-projects/Stuarts-Point-Sewerage-Scheme>



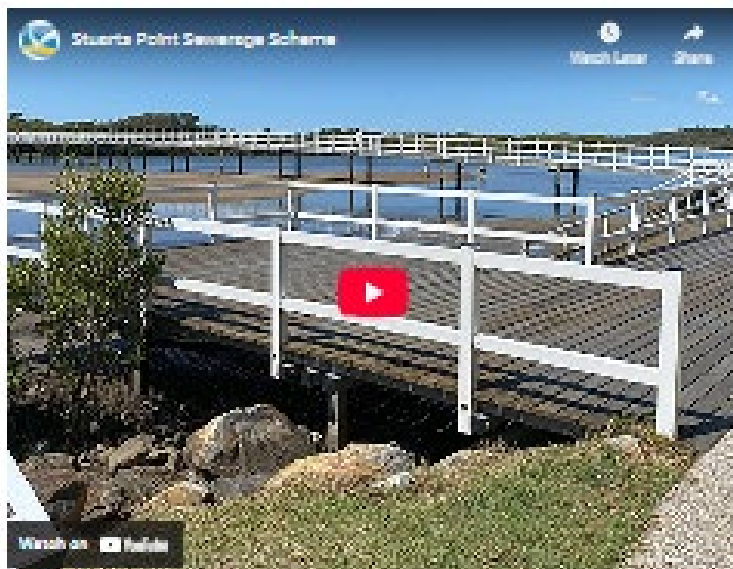
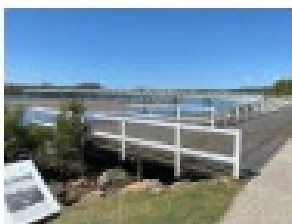
STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME



Home / Your Valley / Ongoing works in the Shire / Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme

Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme

Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme will service Stuarts Point, Grassy Head and Fishermans Reach and provide a modern and reliable means of treating sewage and disposing of treated effluent.



Frequently Asked Questions

We have created a frequently asked questions list and are updating the document regularly. The most recent version is Summer 2024-2025.

[Summer 2024-25 - FAQ](#) (PDF, 100KB)

[Winter 2023 - FAQ](#)

[Autumn 2022 - FAQ](#)

Future engagement dates

Thursday 3 April

5pm to 6pm

Stuarts Point Community Hall

No registration required

Friday 4 April

8am to 9:30

Virtual via Microsoft Teams

[Register here](#)

Thursday 26 June

5pm to 6pm

Stuarts Point Community Hall

No registration required

Friday 27 June

8am to 9:30



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Project update: Autumn 2025

Kempsey Shire Council is developing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme as part of the State Significant Development process. The Scheme will service Stuarts Point, Grassy Head and Fishermans Beach and provide a modern, reliable means of collecting and treating sewage and disposing of treated effluent.

Environmental Impact Statement

The detailed site investigations for the dunal discharge are now complete.

This work involved:

- Further geotechnical investigations to better understand the hydrogeology of a changed dunal discharge configuration.
- Infiltration testing of the sand.
- Groundwater modelling of discharge of effluent to the surface over the changed configuration.

The dunal discharge area has been reconfigured as a result of these investigations, and is now a longer, but narrower layout. Conceptual layouts will now be developed to inform the design and environmental assessment to allow the EIS to be updated.

Now the final dunal discharge area has been identified, we are able to undertake additional flora and fauna surveys of the reconfigured dunal discharge area and complete the biodiversity assessment.

We are on track to finalise and submit the EIS to the NSW Government mid-year.

Community Information

The format for the face-to-face sessions in 2025 is slightly different. Instead of being a drop-in session, the project team will provide a briefing on where the project is up to. Following this, the team will answer any questions from attendees. We will also continue to provide quarterly written updates, delivered straight to your letterbox.

Timeframe



Funding

We are excited to confirm that the Australian Government has recently announced that Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme is one of several critical infrastructure projects to receive funding from the Housing Support Program.

We applied for and will receive \$45 million to complete the project and are waiting to receive further information about the deed and milestones for the project.

8am to 8:30

Virtual via Microsoft Teams
[Register here](#)

Thursday 18 September

5pm to 6pm
Stuarts Point Community Hall
No registration required

Friday 19 September

8am to 8:30
Virtual via Microsoft Teams
[Register here](#)

Thursday 27 November

5pm to 6pm
Stuarts Point Community Hall
No registration required

Friday 28 November

8am to 8:30
Virtual via Microsoft Teams
[Register here](#)

Community updates

[Autumn 2025 Community Update](#)

(PDF, 1.5MB)

[Spring and Summer 2024-25 Community Update](#)

(PDF, 1.5MB)

[Winter 2024 Community Update](#)

(PDF, 1.5MB)

[Autumn 2024 Community Update](#)

(PDF, 1.5MB)

[Spring 2023 Community Update](#)

(PDF, 1.5MB)

[Summer 2023 Community Update](#)

[Autumn 2023 Community Update](#)

Related Information

[Stuarts-Point-Sewerage-Scheme-Consultation-to-Inform-the-EIS-Report.pdf](#)

(PDF, 1.5MB)

[Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme - Dunal Discharge Study Area.pdf](#)

(PDF, 1.5MB)

[Typical Property Connection for Pressure Sewer Applications](#)

(PDF, 1.5MB)

[Pressure Sewer Homeowners Manual version 2](#)

(PDF, 1.5MB)



STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME

Engagement Collateral: Autumn 2024 community update

The following flyer was delivered to all properties within the project area.



Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme will service Stuarts Point, Grassy Head and Fishermans Reach and provide a modern and reliable means of treating sewage and disposing of treated effluent.

The project involves the construction of a pressure sewer system to service existing properties within the scheme, a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) to treat sewage, and dunal discharge for the release of treated effluent. The pressure sewer system is made up of an underground tank and pump at each property that collects sewage and discharges it through a network of pressure pipes to the treatment facility.

Planning and construction of the Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme is highly complex. The project is a State Significant Development (SSD), requiring the preparation and public exhibition of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Environmental Impact Statement

The EIS is in progress with field survey work for a number of studies underway. These include Aboriginal cultural heritage, biodiversity, social impact, transport and traffic, waste, visual amenity as well as a range of environmental studies. The EIS is scheduled for submission to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) in mid 2024 for review and public exhibition for comment with a determination expected in early 2025.

Pressure Sewer Scheme

PS Solutions have been engaged to implement the design of the pressure sewer system for the proposed Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme. PS Solutions are completing audits of the 541 properties included in the scheme. The next steps are to finalise the system hydraulic model and progress to detailed design of the pressure sewer system, incorporating property design connections to the network beyond property boundaries.

2024 project achievements and next steps

January 2024

EIS fieldwork for key studies including biodiversity, geotech, aboriginal cultural heritage, traffic and transport.

February 2024

EIS fieldwork continues. Property audits started and community drop-in session held.

March 2024

EIS fieldwork continues. Property audits completed. Design planning for WWTP.

April 2024

Community drop-in session. EIS fieldwork completed.

Mid 2024

EIS ready to submit to DPHI.



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Wastewater Treatment Plant

Council has acquired land for the proposed wastewater treatment plant south of the Stuarts Point village, adjacent to the existing waste transfer station on Fishermans Reach Road.

A preliminary design for the treatment plant has been completed, to be developed further under a design and construction contract. An expression of interest (EOI) for a design and construction tender has also been completed.

The tender for design and construction of the treatment plant is expected to be awarded in mid-2024.

Detailed design will be completed before construction commences in early 2025 pending State Significant Development approval by the Minister for Planning.

Community Information

To make sure you are kept up to date about where the project is up to, we have scheduled quarterly community updates. We are also hosting face-to-face drop-in sessions and virtual information sessions to share more information about the project.

Registration is essential for the virtual sessions, scan the QR code or visit the website link below. No need to register for the face-to-face sessions, drop by anytime during the times listed.

There is also a Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme project page on our website with:

- Frequently asked questions.
- Maps of the project area and proposed wastewater treatment plant site.
- Property connection information.
- A pressure sewer homeowners manual.

Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme is proudly funded by the NSW Government in association with Kempsey Shire Council.

Community drop-in sessions



Thursday 4 April
4pm to 7pm
Stuarts Point Community Hall



Friday 5 April
8.30am to 9am
Virtual via MS Teams



Thursday 4 July
4pm to 7pm
Stuarts Point Community Hall



Friday 5 July
8.30am to 9am
Virtual via MS Teams



Thursday 3 October
4pm to 7pm
Stuarts Point Community Hall



Friday 4 October
8.30am to 9am
Virtual via MS Teams

Subscribe to stay up to date

The project page is being updated regularly with frequently asked questions and project information. Scan the QR code, scroll to the bottom of the page and press 'Subscribe to this page' to be notified about page updates.



More information

Additional project information is available by:

- Scanning the QR code
- Visiting Council's website ksc.pub/stuarts-point
- Phoning (02) 6566 3200
- Emailing ksc@kempsey.nsw.gov.au



STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME

Engagement Collateral: Winter 2024 community update

The following flyer was delivered to all properties within the project area.



Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme will service Stuarts Point, Grassy Head and Fishermans Reach and provide a modern and reliable means of treating sewage and disposing of treated effluent.

Environmental Impact Statement

The studies required for the Environmental Impact Statement are almost complete, a summary of progress is provided in the table below.

Study area	Status of report	Status of review
Noise modelling	Complete	Complete
Soils and contamination field studies	Complete	In progress
Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage	Complete	In progress
Biodiversity BAM plot field study	Complete	In progress
Traffic and Transport data	Complete	In progress
Social Impact Assessment	Almost complete	To be reviewed
Water, water quality and licensing assessment	Almost complete	To be reviewed

Once the studies are complete the draft EIS will be finalised for formal submission to Kempsey Shire Council for review and comment. Submission to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) will follow in mid-2024 for review and public exhibition with a determination expected in early 2025.

2024 project achievements and next steps

March 2024

Property audits completed for the scheme to allow scoping for pressure sewer installation on each property.

April 2024

Community drop-in sessions held. Property electrical audits completed.

May 2024

On site interviews and investigations about Aboriginal and European cultural heritage.

June 2024

Detailed investigations and modelling for dunal discharge.

July 2024

Community sessions scheduled, see over page for details.

Mid 2024

EIS ready to submit to DPHI.



STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME

Pressure Sewer Scheme

PS Solutions have been engaged to implement the design of the pressure sewer system for the proposed Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme.

PS Solutions carried out 541 inspections on properties within the scheme that included property pressure sewer design, scoping of drainage and electrical works for each property, and are now progressing with updating the hydraulic model and civil design of the network.

Wastewater Treatment Plant

A reference design for the treatment plant has been completed. This will be developed further as part of the design and construction contract for the plant.

An expression of interest (EOI) for a design and construction tender has been completed with four contractors shortlisted to progress to full formal tender. The tender is expected to be awarded in mid-2024.

Community Information

We are hosting a face-to-face drop-in session on Thursday 4 July and a virtual information session on Friday 5 July to share more information about the project. Registration is essential for the virtual sessions, scan the QR code or visit the website link below. No need to register for the face-to-face sessions, drop by anytime during the times listed.

There is also a Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme project page on our website with frequently asked questions and other project information.

Community drop-in sessions



Thursday 4 July
4pm to 7pm
Stuarts Point Community Hall



Friday 5 July
8.30am to 9am
Virtual via MS Teams



Thursday 3 October
4pm to 7pm
Stuarts Point Community Hall



Friday 4 October
8.30am to 9am
Virtual via MS Teams

Subscribe to stay up to date

The project page is being updated regularly with frequently asked questions and project information. Scan the QR code, scroll to the bottom of the page and press 'Subscribe to this page' to be notified about page updates.

Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme is proudly funded by the NSW Government in association with Kempsey Shire Council.



More information

Additional project information is available by:

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- Visiting Council's website ksc.pub/stuarts-point
- Phoning (02) 6566 3200
- Emailing ksc@kempsey.nsw.gov.au



STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME

Engagement Collateral: Spring/Summer 2024 community update
The following flyer was delivered to all properties within the project area.



Kempsey Shire Council is developing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme as part of the State Significant Development process. The Scheme will service Stuarts Point, Grassy Head and Fishermans Reach and provide a modern, reliable means of collecting and treating sewage and disposing of treated effluent.

Environmental Impact Statement

We recently wrote to all residents and ratepayers of Stuarts Point, Fishermans Reach and Grassy Head to provide an update on the EIS process. As outlined in the letter, we had planned to have the EIS finalised by now, however, further investigations are needed in two key areas.

- **Biodiversity Assessments:** It has been identified through recent biodiversity assessments that spring and summer surveys are needed to better understand and plan for species impact mitigation and comply with state and federal legislation. Spring surveys have been completed with the summer surveys planned for early 2025.
- **Dunal Discharge Investigations:** We are also completing a more detailed assessment of the dunal discharge area to inform both the environmental assessment and the detailed design of the scheme. In the coming weeks you will see contractors on site undertaking further geotechnical investigations. These investigations will occur along the length of the proposed dunal discharge area at Stuarts Point between the Macleay Arm and Tasman Sea, north of Kimpton Street. Access to the site will be along the beach from Grassy Head.

These additional investigations unfortunately delay the finalisation and submission of the EIS to the NSW Government to mid-2025.

2024 project achievements and next steps

Jan-June 2024

Property audits completed and community drop-in sessions held. Studies underway for EIS.

July 2024

Community drop-in sessions held. Expressions of interest for design and construction of WWTP completed.

August 2024

EIS studies reviewed and areas for further investigation identified.

September - December 2024

Detailed investigations and modelling for dunal discharge. Community sessions scheduled.

Early 2025

Complete detailed investigations.

Mid 2025
Submit EIS.



STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME

Pressure Sewer Network and Property Works

The civil design for the network including design report, tender plans for civil works, technical specifications and schedules are complete.

Site audits have been completed for each property and CAD plans, schedules of work and technical specifications have also been completed in preparation for tender.

Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)

The reference design for the WWTP is complete, but may need to be updated following the completion of the investigations outlined above.

With the extended time needed for the studies at the dunal discharge site and seasonal surveys it has been decided to hold the procurement until closer to the time of EIS submission.

Community Information

Community information sessions are being held on Thursday 28 November and Friday 29 November and the format will be slightly different to the previous drop-in sessions.

The project team will provide a briefing about the EIS, its findings and next steps, as well as an update on the pressure sewer system. Project team members will be on hand to answer any questions. We would also like to talk about the year ahead and the preferred way to keep you informed as the project progresses.

Community drop-in sessions



Thursday 28 November
5pm for 5.30pm start
Stuarts Point Community Hall



Friday 29 November
8am to 8.30am
Virtual via MS Teams

Subscribe to stay up to date

The Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme project page on our website is updated regularly with frequently asked questions and project information.

Scan the QR code below, scroll to the bottom of the webpage and press 'Subscribe to this page' to be notified about page updates.

Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme is proudly funded by the NSW Government in association with Kempsey Shire Council.



More information


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STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME

Social media posts:



4

Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 4 PM – 7 PM

Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme community drop-in session – Autumn 2024 update

Stuarts Point Community Hall

About Discussion

Details

4 people responded

Event by Kempsey Shire Council

Stuarts Point Community Hall

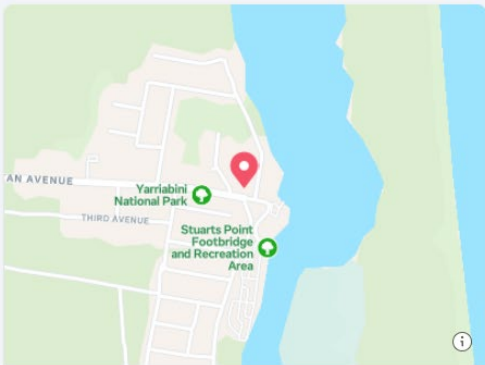
Duration: 3 hr

Public · Anyone on or off Facebook

The project team from Kempsey Shire Council invite you to drop-in and find out the latest about the Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme. The team provide an update on project and answer... [See more](#)

Stuarts Point, New South Wales, Australia


Meet Your Host



Stuarts Point Community Hall
Ocean Ave, Stuarts Point



STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME



5

Friday, April 5, 2024 at 8:30 AM – 9 AM

Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme virtual information session – Autumn 2024

Online event

Event Ended

AboutDiscussion

Details

30 min

2 people responded

Event by **Kempsey Shire Council**

Public · Anyone on or off Facebook

Join the project team from Kempsey Shire Council to find out the latest about the Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme. The team provide an update on project and answer any questions you may have.

Date: Friday 5 April

Time: 8.30am to 9am

Location: Virtual via MS Teams

Registration required: ksc.pub/stuarts-point See less

Online

Guests

1 Went1 Interested

See all

Popular with friends

Fri, May 30 at 8 PM

Ball Park Music 'Like Love' Tour | Sydney NSW (Lic/AA)

Enmore Theatre

Caitlin is interested

Interested

Sat, Jun 7 - Jun 8

Glenworth Grazing Festival 2025

Glenworth Valley Wilderness Adventures

Caitlin is interested

17

Kempsey Shire Council acknowledges the land of the Thunggutti/Dunghutti Nation. We pay respect to Elders past and present. We acknowledge the role of emerging leaders to continue to guide us in the future. We acknowledge the Stolen Generations and the need to change practices to be inclusive. This land always was and always will be Thunggutti/Dunghutti land.

Friday 1 August 2025

Andrew Meddle
General Manager
Kempsey Shire Council
22 Tozer Street
West Kempsey NSW 2440

RE: Letter of Support – Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme

Dear Andrew,

I am writing to express my strong support for Kempsey Shire Council's *Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme* project.

This long-awaited project represents a significant investment in the health, sustainability, and future prosperity of the Stuarts Point, Grassy Head, and Fishermans Reach communities. By replacing outdated on-site systems with a modern reticulated sewer network, Council is addressing longstanding environmental and public health risks while also enabling future residential growth in a region of high ecological and cultural value.

The delivery of a pressure sewer system and connection to a new wastewater treatment plant a prudent, future-focused solution. It reflects Council's commitment to sustainable infrastructure, protection of the Macleay River catchment, and improved service delivery for residents who have waited decades for this essential service. As an oyster grower, the health of the Macleay Arm has a direct impact on my livelihood. Having a healthy waterway, is essential for the oyster industry.

We commend Kempsey Shire Council for its consultation with residents and stakeholders, and for its strong advocacy in securing funding support for this important project. Once complete, the scheme will improve liveability for existing households but unlock new opportunities for economic activity, tourism, and housing development in one of the Shire's most scenic coastal communities.

We encourage all levels of government to continue supporting the successful delivery of the Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme.

Yours sincerely,



Todd Graham

Oyster farmer

Chair of the NSW Farmers Northern Rivers Branch



P.O. Box 540.
Kempsey, N.S.W. 2440
Phone (02) 6562-8688
Fax (02) 6563-1293

KEMPSEY LOCAL ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL

Monday 11 August 2025

Andrew Meddle
General Manager
Kempsey Shire Council
22 Tozer Street
West Kempsey NSW 2440

RE: Letter of Support – Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme

Dear Andrew,

On behalf of Kempsey Local Aboriginal Land Council (Kempsey LALC), please accept this letter of continued support for Kempsey Shire Council's ongoing efforts to upgrade essential infrastructure, particularly the *Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme*.

This project is proposed on Dunghutti/Thunggutti country. Here, the Macleay River system and its connected waterways are not just environmental assets, they are part of our story, our culture, and our responsibility to care for Country. From the mountains to the sea, water connects our people across generations.

The delivery of modern sewerage infrastructure to Stuarts Point, Grassy Head and Fishermans Reach is a significant and long-overdue step forward. For decades, our communities have relied on ageing, inadequate on-site systems that pose risks to both health and environment.

There are around 3,500 Aboriginal people living in Kempsey Shire, nearly 13% of the population. Our vision is to lead and grow as a strong Aboriginal community by protecting and strengthening our cultural heritage, while also building a self-sustaining economic base for current and future generations. Infrastructure projects like this directly support that vision by unlocking potential for new housing, employment, and participation in meaningful work on Country.

We welcome the opportunity to work with Kempsey Shire Council to ensure local Aboriginal people can benefit from this project, whether through jobs, training or service connections, and look forward to continuing this partnership as the broader water and sewer upgrades across the Shire progress.

Yours sincerely,

David Carroll

Chief Executive Officer

Kempsey Local Aboriginal Land Council



Stuarts Point & District
Community Organisation
A stronger future together.

Postal Address 21 Ocean Avenue Stuarts Point NSW 2441 Email chair@spadco.community

28 July 2025

To: Eric Nielsen,
Program Manager,
Kempsey Shire Council

Dear Eric

RE: STUARTS POINT SEWAGE PROJECT

The Stuarts Point and District Community Organisation (SPaDCO) recognises that the sewage project at Stuarts Point, Grassy Head and Fisherman's Reach will be a positive step towards enhancing water quality in the North ARM of the Macleay River.

The current sewage system, utilising individual old and failing septic tanks, threatens the NARM river estuary and local waterways. Modernised treatment facilities should prevent contamination of these waterways and protect groundwater supplies.

Inadequate sewage treatment creates health risks from waterborne diseases and contaminated water. Residents and tourists alike swim, fish and boat in these waters. Children and the elderly are particularly at risk and the project will ensure safe water use.

Environmental protection of the diverse flora and fauna on the riverbanks, an ancient yet rich food source revered by our local indigenous population, will also be better protected by an improved effluent treatment system.

Kempsey Shire Council has a 'duty of care' (as has the Environmental Protection Agency) to effectively monitor the waterways and we commend Council's efforts to finalise this project to help improve both environmental protection and community health.

Kind regards.

Mary-Lou Lewis
Chair, SPaDCO

August 2025

Environmental Protection Agency
75-77 Clarence Street
Port Macquarie NSW 2444

Dear EPA Officers

CONCERNS ABOUT WATER QUALITY IN “NARM”

The Stuarts Point and District Community Organisation (SPaDCO) writes to express concerns regarding water quality in “NARM”, the North Arm of the River Macleay, and the comprehensive, frequency and reporting by the EPA and Kempsey Shire Council in taking samples to monitor water quality.

After speaking with Simon Jones (EPA) and Eric Nielson (Kempsey Council) we have visually monitored by photographs of the NARM as advised and additionally taken the steps of water testing.

We are endeavouring to collate results of water quality monitoring in this waterway, and would be grateful if you could send to us all such test results in your possession going back a number of years, because our members consider that the water quality has been declining, as evidenced for example by the attached photo of detergent froth, which seems to be increasing in frequency and intensity.

The health of our river system and the safety of our community is dependent on the level of monitoring carried out by the EPA and/or by Kempsey Shire Council and it is hoped that you will consider how many water samples should be tested, how often, for which parameters and by whom.

Out of concern for NARM's water quality, this community-based organisation, though of limited financial means, has done some recent testing of water near the metal wharf of the Yarra Holiday Park (YHP), i.e. at the extreme northern end, where tidal flushing would be less due to the increasing build-up of sand under the Stuarts Point bridge and throughout the entire waterway up from Fishermans Reach. This build-up is an issue of concern.

I attach the two Reports of water Analysis that we paid for. While we are not experts in water quality, the testing identified the following issues of concern, which you may wish to assist us in interpreting.

- **E. coli levels at 66 mpn/100ml** - indicating sewage contamination and potential health risks for recreational water users.
The World Health Organisation states that less than 10 is safe for swimming.
- **Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) at 2-3 mg/L** - indicating organic pollution consistent with sewage discharge. We read that rivers may be considered severely polluted if BOD is above 8.
- **Total Phosphorus at 0.04 mg/L** – this level is far higher than the 0.01 that one would expect in pure seawater, so this level suggests inadequate tidal flushing, and pollution from sewage systems and/or from detergent discharge and/or from agricultural runoff.

- **Total Nitrogen at 0.59 mg/L** – may indicate some contamination from sewage and/or fertiliser sources.

We are aware that the YHP is one of several sources of pollutants into this waterway, and that is why the EPA has issued licence EPL number 11452

We are concerned about the adequacy of this licence.

- The Park can have as many as 7,000 visitors over holiday periods, and peak discharges of effluent could be expected soon afterwards, but the effluent from the sewage treatment plant is required by the licence to be monitored only quarterly.
- The EPL requires that the YHP must keep these results for 4 years (condition M1.2), and that an EPA authorised officer may (not must) ask to see the results, but that such results are not publicly available.
- We wonder if those results should be publicly available.
- The EPL allows for irrigation onto YHP's land of sewage treatment plant effluent up to 210 kilolitres per day (which seems a lot) provided that (condition O3.3) there be no surface runoff (but what about groundwater seepage into Coopers Creek?)
- The EPL seems to have been remiss in not requiring any monitoring by YHP of Coopers Creek, or, if it would not be appropriate for YHP to do this, then we think that the EPA or Kempsey Shire Council should do that monitoring and publish the results.

I attach the results of our water testing and one photograph of detergent froth; we could provide more similar photos.

We hope that the soon-coming Environmental Impact Statement for the Stuarts Point Sewage Treatment Plant will give an indication of the improvement in NARM's water quality that may be expected due to cessation (after a time delay) of septic tank effluents to groundwater and thence to the river.

Kind regards

Mary-lou Lewis, Chair, SPaDCO

cc: Kempsey Shire Council

Michael Kemp, Member of the NSW Legislative Assembly

Enclosed:

Report of Analysis, of water samples taken on 1 April, 24 April, 1 May 2025

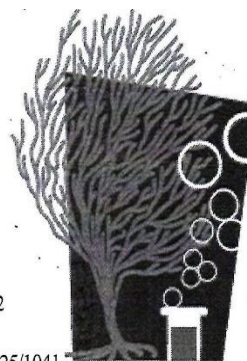
Report of Analysis of 2 water samples taken on 29 May 2025

Photo of detergent froth on the eastern side of NARM

COFFS HARBOUR LABORATORY

Environmental Analysis

Page 1 of 2



REPORT FOR:
LEX STEWART

BATCH NUMBER: 25/1041
No. of SAMPLES: 3
DATE COLLECTED: 01/04-01/05/25
DATE RECEIVED: 02/05/25
TIME RECEIVED: 15:55
DATE TESTING COMMENCED: 02/05/25

(AMENDED) REPORT OF ANALYSIS

SAMPLE REFERENCE	SAMPLE DESCRIPTION
25/1041/1	MACLEAY RIVER A
25/1041/2	MACLEAY RIVER B
25/1041/3	MACLEAY RIVER C

1 April 24 April 1 May

ANALYSIS	UNITS	25/1041/1	25/1041/2	25/1041/3	METHOD NO
pH	pH unit	-	-	7.5	APHA 4500-H+B
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	14,800	13,300	9,110	EL7B
Conductivity	µS/cm	-	-	14,200	APHA 2510 B
Salinity	ppt	-	-	9.49	EL6
Turbidity	NTU	5.2	23	4.3	APHA 2130 B
Calcium Hardness	mg CaCO ₃ /L	-	-	254	EL9A
Alkalinity	mg CaCO ₃ /L	-	-	71	APHA 2320 B
Total Nitrogen	mg/L	-	-	0.59	EL30F
Total Phosphorus	mg/L	-	-	0.04	EL18F
Aluminium	mg/L	-	-	0.50	EL9A
Arsenic	mg/L	-	-	<0.012	EL9A
Boron	mg/L	-	-	1.21	EL9A
Cadmium	mg/L	-	-	<0.002	EL9A
Calcium	mg/L	-	-	102	EL9A
Chromium	mg/L	-	-	<0.002	EL9A
Copper	mg/L	-	-	0.011	EL9A
Iron	mg/L	-	-	0.50	EL9A
Lead	mg/L	-	-	<0.008	EL9A
Magnesium	mg/L	-	-	323	EL9A

Page 1

Page 2

ANALYSIS	UNITS	25/1041/1	25/1041/2	25/1041/3	METHOD NO
Manganese	mg/L	-	-	0.074	EL9A
Nickel	mg/L	-	-	0.004	EL9A
Potassium	mg/L	-	-	141	EL9A
Sodium	mg/L	-	-	2,650	EL9A
Zinc	mg/L	-	-	<0.002	EL9A
E.coli	mpn/100mL	-	-	66	APHA 9223
Langelier Index		-	-	-0.2	

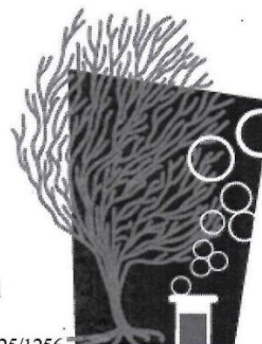
Comments

**

COFFS HARBOUR LABORATORY

Environmental Analysis

Page 1 of 1



REPORT FOR:
LEX STEWART
13 OCEAN AVENUE
STUARTS POINT NSW 2441

BATCH NUMBER: 25/1256
No. of SAMPLES: 2
DATE COLLECTED: 29/05/25
DATE RECEIVED: 30/05/25
TIME RECEIVED: 13:40
DATE TESTING COMMENCED:
30/05/25

REPORT OF ANALYSIS

SAMPLE REFERENCE	SAMPLE DESCRIPTION
25/1256/1	CREEK WATER
25/1256/2	RIVER WATER

ANALYSIS	UNITS	25/1256/1	25/1256/2		METHOD NO
Biochem Oxygen Demand (BOD5)	mg/L	<2	3		APHA 5210 B

Comments

Sample(s) collected by client and analysed as received in accordance with "Standard Methods for the Examination of Water & Wastewater", 24th Edition, 2023, APHA. Raw data sheets stating analysis, dates are available upon request.

Tests marked with '#' are not covered by NATA Accreditation.

Measurement Uncertainty is available upon request.

Report Date: 4/06/25



Accredited for compliance with ISO/IEC 17025 - Testing
Accreditation Number: 12359

Approved:

Shane Ewart
Technical Supervisor
Microbiology and Chemistry

The results of the tests, calibrations and/or measurements included in this document are traceable to Australian and International standards.

City of Coffs Harbour
Laboratory - 38 Gordon Street - Locked Bag 155 - Coffs Harbour - NSW - 2450 - Tel: (02) 6648 4460 - Fax (02) 6648 4466
www.chcc.nsw.gov.au - coffs.council@chcc.nsw.gov.au

**



6100 draft letter ver2 aug2025 to EPA re water monitoring.docx