

Mooney Mooney & Cheero Point Sewerage Update

OCTOBER 2006

There have been significant developments in the progress of Gosford City Council's sewerage scheme for residents of Mooney Mooney and Cheero Point.

The method to determine the charge for your new sewerage system has been set by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory tribunal (IPART). The amount estimated using this method is \$9,650 per residential lot. The cost of decommissioning of your old sewerage system, rectification of any defects in your property services and the connection to the sewerage system are also to be paid by property owners.

Council will work closely with each property owner to ensure installation and operation of the new system runs smoothly.

First stage funding has been approved by the NSW Minister for Utilities and construction has commenced on the shared infrastructure between Gosford City Council and Sydney Water.

An "Information Day" is planned for Saturday 28 October at the Mooney Mooney Workers Club.

In this Issue:

- * Charges for your new sewerage system explained
- * Consultation process for system installation
- * Progress to date & key milestones

Charges for Property Owners

Based on the Pricing Determination by IPART (see notes) a preferred charging option was adopted by Council at its 5 September 2006 meeting.

The adopted charging option provides the lowest cost to existing residential properties. Estimated IPART determined costs for the different property classifications are as follows:

"Priority Sewerage Program" Properties (existing residential)

The current estimated charge is \$9,650 (ex GST) payable as a once only charge.

This figure comprises:

- * An initial fixed charge of \$5,400 which is indexed annually by the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

- * An additional amount equivalent to 67% of the remaining scheme cost, less applicable subsidies, divided by the number of PSP properties. The other 33% of remaining scheme costs are spread across the Gosford Council ratepayer base. IPART has determined this cost to be equivalent to \$0.82 per property per year.

Non-"Priority Sewerage Program" Properties (non-residential properties and future growth)

The method of calculating the contribution charge for these properties differs from residential properties and is based on an Equivalent Tenement (ET) rating which is a measure of the sewerage loading. The estimated Non-PSP charge is \$28,350 per ET.

Please note that all the above charges are still based on estimates at this stage and may vary. Other costs to property owners to connect to the scheme, over and above the IPART determined costs may include:

- * Decommissioning of the old sewerage system.
- * Rectification of defects in the existing household drainage or electrical system.
- * Construction of the sanitary drain connection to the new sewerage system.

NOTES: As part of our previous newsletter we discussed the issue of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) releasing a new Determination regarding the pricing of Backlog Sewerage Services for Gosford City Council. This Determination sets the method that Council **must** use in calculating costs for providing the sewerage service to property owners in Mooney Mooney and Cheero Point.

Council's review of the IPART Determination also considered the requirements of the Country Towns Water Supply & Sewerage (CTWSS) and Priority Sewerage Program (PSP) subsidies and resulted in the examination of a large number of charging options.

Low Pressure System

Council will be constructing a low pressure sewerage system to service Mooney Mooney and Cheero Point. This system requires a higher degree of co-operation between property owners, contractors and Council during installation and operation. (Council will be holding an "Information Day" on 28 October 2006 to give you the opportunity to obtain more details on your new the low pressure sewerage system).

Funding Approval by Minister

Council has received confirmation from the NSW Minister for Water Utilities that subsidy funding is approved and is available to start the first stage of construction of the Mooney Mooney and Cheero Point Sewerage Scheme.

The first stage of the scheme involves the construction of the infrastructure that is shared with Sydney Water under the joint works. This infrastructure is being delivered by Sydney Water and includes the sewage treatment plant in Brooklyn, the effluent disposal system and part of the sewage transfer main from Mooney Mooney.

The next stages of the project include the works that Gosford Council will deliver which are the low pressure sewerage reticulation and collection system and the other part of the transfer main.

Progress of Scheme

Significant progress has now been made on the joint sewerage scheme.

Sydney Water has commenced construction of the sewage treatment plant in Brooklyn and are already laying pipes for the reticulation system in this area.

Gosford City Council is responsible for the delivery of the sewerage system in Mooney Mooney and Cheero Point. Geotechnical investigations and environmental impact assessments have now been completed.

Work is almost finished on the hydraulic design of the reticulation system mains and we'll shortly commence designs of the transfer system across the Hawkesbury River.

Expressions of interest have been called to pre-register tenderers for the design and construction contract.

Further Council works include the preparation and awarding of three (3) major delivery contracts.

These will include:

- * the supply of low pressure equipment
- * construction of the transfer system (including replacement of the existing water main across the Peats Ferry Road Bridge)
- * design and construction of the low pressure sewerage system.

Programme

Estimated timeline for the project is as follows:

NOW TO FEBRUARY 2007

Complete preconstruction work including obtaining approvals, tender and award delivery contracts.

FEBRUARY 2007

Start construction works which are anticipated to take at least 15 to 20 months.

MID 2008

Commence sewerage connections.

Calling of tenders and commencement of construction will be depend on the NSW Government providing the expected funding from the Country Towns Water & Sewerage Program and the Priority Sewerage Program.

The date for allowing connections to the new scheme also depends on completion of the sewage treatment plant at Brooklyn by Sydney Water Corporation.

Further Information

If you require further information please contact

* Paul Jupp on 4325 8919

* Pam McCann on 4325 8337.

INFORMATION DAY

Saturday 28 October 2006

9am to 1pm

Bowlers Annex,

Mooney Mooney Workers

Club Kowan Road