Cardinia South Sewerage Servicing Strategy
Frequently asked questions

Who is South East Water?
South East Water is owned by the Victorian Government and is one of Melbourne’s three metropolitan water retailers. We provide industry leading water and sewerage solutions to deliver better outcomes for our community. We service almost 1.5 million customers across Melbourne’s south-east – from Port Melbourne to Portsea and from Parkdale to some 30 kilometres east of Pakenham. For more information visit southeastwater.com.au

What is the Cardinia South Sewerage Servicing Strategy?
Lang Lang and Koo Wee Rup sewage treatment plants are two of South East Water’s oldest treatment plants. Since construction in 1965 and 1978 respectively, the plants have treated wastewater from the townships, before using the treated wastewater to irrigate South East Water’s onsite tree plantations. Both sewage treatment plants are now nearing capacity. There is little room to treat and manage an increase in sewage flow, which will result from the area’s forecasted population growth.

To ensure South East Water can cater for the projected increase in the local population, we need to revise our approach to long term sewage management.

To help develop this approach, we are working closely with key stakeholders and local communities to ensure our strategy meets local needs and values, while being environmentally sensitive and economically acceptable to our wider customer base.

What does ‘sewerage servicing’ mean?
Sewerage servicing refers to the way we manage the removal, treatment and disposal of your sewage once it leaves your home (from your toilet, shower, laundry and sinks).

The image on the right shows how we presently manage sewage in Lang Lang and Koo Wee Rup. The sewage leaves your home and moves through a series of pipes until it reaches a pump station. It is then pumped to your local sewerage treatment plant. At our Lang Lang and Koo Wee Rup plants, sewage is treated in big lagoons where it undergoes treatment by natural processes. Once the wastewater has reached an acceptable quality, it is then used to irrigate onsite tree plantations.
How are we developing the strategy?

We will investigate a number of options, including local uses for treated wastewater, to ensure we select the best outcome for the region.

To help us identify and assess possible options, a stakeholder reference group has been established, which includes representatives from the local community, government agencies, local council and agricultural groups. The group will meet regularly during the project, providing the project team with ongoing feedback.

Options will be assessed against a range of social, environmental and economic criteria, as decided by the stakeholder reference group. Assessing the options against these criteria will ensure the final strategy reflects the characteristics and qualities of the area.

What must the strategy achieve?

The strategy must identify a way to:

- Meet the long term sewerage servicing needs of the Lang Lang and Koo Wee Rup townships
- Be environmentally sensitive
- Be economically acceptable to the wider community
- Not impact cultural sites (including sites of significance)
- Be safe (construction, operation and public health)
- Meet Environment Protection Authority (EPA) requirements
- Not result in increased maintenance costs for local residents
- Be sensitive to risks associated with flooding.

When will the strategy be finalised?

South East Water is aiming to select a final option by the end of 2011.

Current forecasts indicate that the existing sewage treatment plants will reach capacity between 2013 and 2015. As such, it is important that South East Water commences the project design and approvals process by early 2012, with the first stage of construction commencing in 2013.

How can I become involved?

You can hear about the project and become involved through a range of activities. Activities include staffed information stalls, community sessions, presentations to local community groups and news articles. Information on the project will also be available from South East Water’s website www.southeastwater.com.au
Members of the public are also welcome to attend stakeholder reference group meetings to observe the process and listen to the discussion. To register your attendance at one of these meetings please contact South East Water’s Community Engagement Coordinator, Sandra Glass (contact details below).

**Why should I have a say?**

South East Water is committed to working together with stakeholders and the community to develop a strategy that best meets the future needs of the Lang Lang and Koo Wee Rup townships.

We believe that your feedback will help us understand local needs and values, allowing a sustainable solution to be developed that meets your community’s needs.

**Who do I contact if I want more information?**

If you have any questions, feedback or comments please contact Sandra Glass:

Phone: 03 9552 3572

Email: cardinia@sewl.com.au

Post: Sandra Glass, Community Engagement Coordinator

South East Water

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