Why do we need a sewerage scheme?
In the Rye coastal community, there is direct evidence of waste from failing household septic tanks polluting the groundwater, waterways and the environment. This sewerage scheme is required to eliminate the use of existing onsite septic tanks, which will result in significant improvements to public health and the environment.

Mornington Peninsula Shire and the Victorian Environment Protection Agency (EPA) both support the delivery of this sewerage scheme.

Is my property part of the scheme?
The sewerage scheme will be provided to existing properties that are unable to sustainably contain and treat their waste water onsite. Approximately 1,500 properties in Rye coastal will be included as part of the scheme. In deciding which properties to include, we consider the size of the property (smaller than 0.4 hectares), the volume of waste water generated onsite and the viability of connecting the property to the scheme.

How will the pressure pump unit be installed on my property?
The installation of the pump is straightforward and only requires a relatively small hole to be dug and the unit to be lowered and secured. This work will usually be completed within one day. The connection of the pump unit to the pipe work in the street will be via a small pipe approximately 40/50mm in diameter and installed one metre deep.

What do I have to do to connect to the scheme?
South East Water will notify you in advance and provide you with all the information you need to assist you with connections. First you will receive an information pack from us when connections are available. Once you have decided that you want to connect and you have applied to connect a South East Water representative will meet with you at your property to agree on the location for the new pump unit or connection on your property.

Why should I connect to the scheme?
The environmental and health benefits to individual properties and the community as a whole will only be maximised when all properties are connected to the scheme. You will avoid the ongoing costs of maintaining your onsite waste water (septic) system. Connection may also have benefits in relation to eliminating damp areas or odour on or near your property.

Can I still connect if my property is not part of the scheme?
Yes but the connection costs will be significantly higher than normal. If you are considering connecting and you are not part of the scheme, please contact South East Water for more information.

What costs are associated with the scheme?
A summary of the costs is provided below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Who pays</th>
<th>Costs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scheme Contribution Fee</td>
<td>Everyone within the scheme boundary, regardless of whether you choose to connect</td>
<td>$500 – included with your quarterly water and sewerage bill at $25 per quarter for five years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Residential Application Fee</td>
<td>Only if you choose to connect</td>
<td>$45 – which is waived if you apply within the first 12 months.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connection costs to your house plumbing (by your Licensed Plumber)</td>
<td>Only if you choose to connect</td>
<td>Connection of household waste water pipes to the pump unit and decommissioning of the existing septic tank is estimated to cost between $1500 and $5000, depending on plumbing conditions. These figures can only be confirmed once an onsite assessment has been undertaken so the information provided here is an average estimate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ongoing costs for use of pressure sewerage system</td>
<td>Only if you choose to connect</td>
<td>Electrical supply for pump unit is approximately $30–$50 per year subject to usage and paid to your electrical supplier. The sewerage service charge is approximately $100 per quarter and the sewage disposal charge is approximately $30–$75, subject to usage and are paid to South East Water.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

More information about service charges are available on the South East Water website.
When can I connect?

Construction of the Rye Coastal Sewerage Scheme will commence in 2011 and take approximately three years. Both construction and connection works will be staged. As each stage is completed, property owners will be invited to connect to the scheme. We anticipate that the first stage will be ready for connection in mid-2011.

Do I have a say in where the sewer connections are made inside my property?

Yes. You will be asked to identify your preferred location for the system connection points. We’ll be available to assist you to make this decision to ensure the most cost efficient and practical systems are in place.

Do I have to connect?

No. You may choose not to connect to the sewerage scheme however, although South East Water cannot force property owners to connect, Council may place restrictions on property owners who cannot effectively manage their waste water onsite.

What happens to my old septic tank?

Once connected to the sewerage system, your septic tank should be decommissioned (by the connecting plumber). This will involve having the waste within the septic tank pumped out and the concrete base broken up before filling it in.

Alternatively, you may wish to re-use your septic tank to store rainwater for garden watering. In this instance, the tank will need to be pumped out and disinfected before storing water. You should check with your Council about the procedures for decommissioning or re-using a septic tank. For more information visit www.mornpen.vic.gov.au and go to Fact Files.

How will my property/street be affected by construction?

During construction, underground pipes will be constructed to transfer waste water from individual properties to treatment systems located in the area. In most cases, the pipes will be installed along the side of the road in nature strips.

We will use specialised construction equipment to minimise disruption to residents and the environment. In many cases, the sewer pipes will be constructed using a horizontal directional drill, thereby minimising environmental and community impacts wherever possible.

The process is:

• Set up the drill on the side of the road
• Drill a new hole underground
• String out the new pipe
• Gradually feed the new pipe into the hole
• Pack up the equipment and move onto the next drill location.

We will keep you informed throughout construction and notify you in advance of works taking place in your street.

Will the environment be affected by these works?

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken for the project area and all areas of high environmental importance or sensitivity within the project area have been considered as part of this project. Various design options were considered during the preliminary stages of the project design. The current design option represents the best possible option to avoid and minimise vegetation loss.

The risk to areas of high environmental importance and sensitivity, including coastal Moonah Woodland, will be minimised by using appropriate construction techniques and by locating the construction impact zones away from strands of significant vegetation.

How will you minimise impact on Aboriginal and cultural heritage sites?

In accordance with the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006, a Cultural Heritage Management Plan will be prepared for the areas of high aboriginal sensitivity. This plan details mechanisms to protect all known archaeological Aboriginal cultural heritage and minimise the construction impact on any currently unknown archaeological Aboriginal cultural heritage located within the activity area.

My property is not within the Rye Coastal Sewerage Scheme boundary. Are there any plans to connect my property and the remaining Rye Coastal area to the scheme?

There is still a large number of properties in Rye that are not currently included in South East Water’s Backlog Sewerage Strategy (2007). More information about the current Water Plan (2009-2013) is available on our website – www.sewl.com.au

Who do I contact if I have any questions, issues or concerns?

For more information about the Rye Coastal Sewerage Scheme, please contact the Project Team:

Phone

Enquiries 1800 055 465
Interpreter service 03 9768 5369

Email

ryesewerage@sewl.com.au

Post

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40 Commercial Drive, Lynbrook Victoria 3975

Web


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