

WEST PORTLAND

SEWERAGE SCHEME NEWSLETTER - December 2011

Welcome to the latest update on the West Portland Sewerage Scheme.

Project Update/Timelines

Last month local contractor CJ Andrew Plumbing and Excavation Pty Ltd (CJ Andrew) was awarded the contract to construct the 127-lot sewerage scheme.

CJ Andrew is a commercial plumbing, excavation, construction and transport company based in south-west Victoria. CJ Andrew has a wealth of experience in the water industry, having completed several major pipeline projects in both coastal and inland environments.

This month CJ Andrew will commence construction of its onsite compound/office at 28 Bridgewater Road.

To get the project underway, commencing on Wednesday 7 December, CJ Andrew in consultation with Wannon Water took pre-construction photos of landowner properties.

Stage one of construction will be the trunk sewer along the creek. Excavation works at the Smith Street end are expected to commence in January 2012.

The second stage will involve construction of customer reticulation sewers.

Subject to wet weather or other unforeseeable delays, Wannon Water expects that construction will be complete and the scheme will be fully operational towards the end of 2012.

Wannon Water will continue to work collaboratively with the Glenelg Shire Council, the Project Monitoring Committee and landowners throughout the construction phase.

Financial Matters

Scheme Contributions

When the scheme is operational, Wannon Water will write to landowners to advise that payment of the scheme contribution is due.

Landowners then have four options available:

1. Pay the invoice in full.
2. Elect to pay the contribution over 20 years.
The interest rate on the amount outstanding is fixed over the 20 years with reference to the 20 year market annuity rate, as determined by the Treasury Corporation of Victoria.
3. Customers with a compliant treatment system may apply to further defer payment (interest applies, subject to meeting Council and EPA conditions).
4. Customers experiencing genuine financial hardship may contact Wannon Water to access Wannon Water's Customer Hardship Program.

Please note: As previously agreed by Wannon Water, subject to the sale or transfer of a property within the West Portland Scheme, payment of the landowner scheme contribution does not fall due until the scheme is operational.

WEST PORTLAND

SEWERAGE SCHEME NEWSLETTER - December 2011

Service Charges

When the scheme is operational landowners will be notified that their property is a 'serviced property' in accordance with the requirements of the *Water Act 1989*.

Quarterly sewerage service charges (currently \$145.43 per quarter) will commence at this time for all properties except for:

- Vacant land (currently \$43.62 per quarter); and
- Properties with a compliant treatment system that receive, and maintain, approval from Glenelg Shire Council that they are not required to connect to the sewerage network (currently \$43.62 per quarter).

All quarterly service charges are reviewed and amended annually on 1 July as per prices set by Wannon Water and approved by the Essential Services Commission – the independent economic regulator for water businesses.

Landowner connection to the sewer

Landowners are responsible for the cost of the private drain required to connect the property to the sewerage connection point on the reticulation sewer.

Landowners will be required to connect to the Wannon Water reticulation main within 12 months from the date of commission.

Towards the end of the construction, Wannon Water will engage the Plumbing Industry Commission (PIC) to inspect each property to identify the minimum essential works required for connection to the sewerage scheme. The list of works will be useful for landowners as a basis for obtaining quotations for connection works.

Hardship

Wannon Water has a comprehensive Customer Hardship Policy to protect the interests of customers in genuine financial hardship.

Customers are able to obtain a copy of the policy by:

- (a) Contacting Wannon Water on 1300 926 666; or
- (b) Visiting one of our customer service centres; or
- (c) Visiting www.wannonwater.com.au

Enquiries

If you have any queries regarding the West Portland Sewerage Scheme, please contact Lisa Baldock on 1300 926 666.