

Media Release

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Upgrade for Wastewater System

Fisherman Bay ratepayers could soon be connected to a Wastewater Management System, with the **Barunga West Council** proposing investment of \$1.5 million to improve and expand the Port Broughton system.

The project, as outlined in the Council's draft Annual Business Plan, is the centrepiece of the Barunga West Council draft budget which has been released for community consultation.

Chief Executive Officer **Maree Wauchope** said the project will depend on a contribution from Fisherman's Bay Management, as the total cost of the project will greatly exceed \$1.5 million.

"One of my priorities has been to work with Fisherman's Bay Management and engineers to finalise the scope, design and procurement of this infrastructure," Maree said.

"Critically, this infrastructure, along with a seawall, roads and stormwater, will allow Fisherman Bay residents to obtain freehold titles, resolving issues that have lasted for decades.

"We are working hard to progress the wastewater project and anticipate presenting it to Council next month."

Since 2017, Fisherman's Bay Management has had development approval to divide land it currently owns and operates into freehold allotments, on the condition that it invests in infrastructure to enhance the area – including wastewater management, coastal protection, stormwater management and roads.

Initially, the proposed wastewater management solution involved Fisherman's Bay Management building and operating a private wastewater scheme to service the Fisherman Bay area.

"We determined that it would be smarter and more effective to have one system servicing the entire region, and so resolved to connect Fisherman Bay to the Council's existing facility on Arbon Road," Maree said.

"This approach means the townships of Fisherman Bay and Port Broughton will have one wastewater plant, owned and operated by the Council."



Under this approach charges for the Fisherman Bay service will also be consistent with what ratepayers on the current system pay.

There will also be some properties outside of the Fisherman Bay land division which will need to be connected to the upgraded facility.

“Once we have finalised the scope and cost of the wastewater project, we will need to obtain necessary licenses and approvals from both the EPA and Department for Health and Wellbeing.

“With all of that complete, we will be in a position to start building next year.”

Director of the Fisherman's Bay Management **Sue Valente** said the Directors are working hard to finalise all arrangements and approvals, allowing settlements to occur early next year.

“Our priority is connecting each of the 403 Fisherman Bay sites to the upgraded wastewater treatment and collection plant,” Sue said.

“Further infrastructure including the sea wall, road network and stormwater infrastructure will follow in due course.

“We understand licensees have been waiting for a very long time for this infrastructure and we are working hard, alongside the Council, to finalise the designs and see it delivered.”

Further information regarding the timing and process regarding freehold land will be made available to Fisherman Bay residents as soon as it is available.