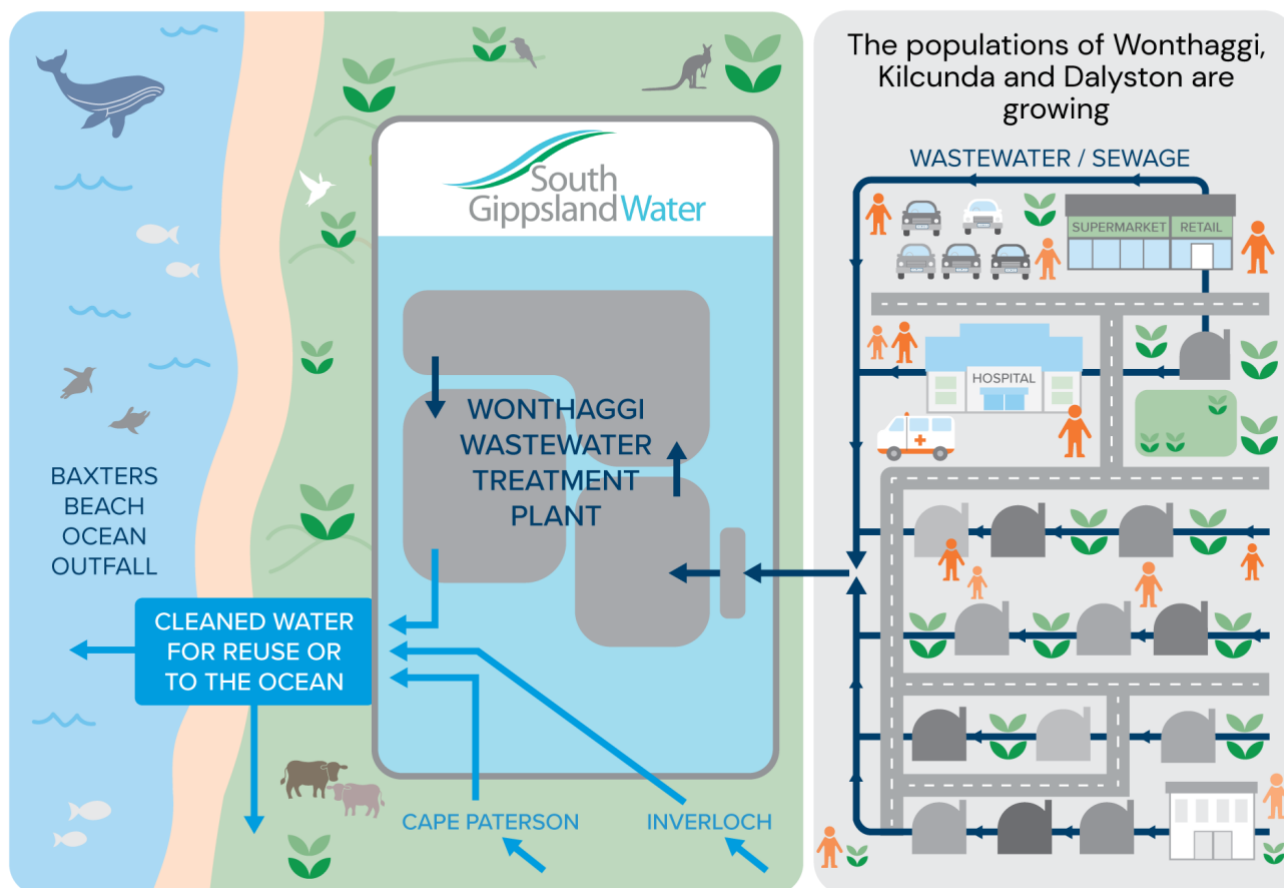# Wonthaggi Sewerage UPGRADE PROJECT

South Gippsland Water provides essential water and wastewater services to the community. We collect and treat sewage from homes, shops, medical facilities and factories around Wonthaggi, Cape Paterson, Inverloch, Kilcunda and Dalyston. Wonthaggi's sewage (or wastewater) treatment plant was originally built over 50 years ago on a 38 hectare (95 acre) site, about 2.5km west of the town centre. The treatment plant has had several minor upgrades over the years and continues to treat the community's wastewater to strict standards set by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA). Once treated, we can reuse the water or release it back into the environment.

It's clear that Wonthaggi's population is growing rapidly, its businesses are growing, and more homes are being built. It is forecast that the population of Wonthaggi will be 13,000 by 2036 – that's a 30% increase! This growth means that our treatment plant will reach capacity sometime in the next 5-10 years. An upgrade of the Wonthaggi sewerage system will ensure that we have the capacity to support the region's growth.

Our wastewater treatment plant is reaching capacity.
It needs a major upgrade.

The populations of Wonthaggi, Kilcunda and Dalyston are growing

WASTEWATER / SEWAGE

South Gippsland Water

WONTHAGGI WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

BAXTERS BEACH OCEAN OUTFALL

CLEANED WATER FOR REUSE OR TO THE OCEAN

CAPE PATERSON   INVERLOCH

SUPERMARKET   RETAIL

HOSPITAL

This is a large and important project

The Wonthaggi Sewerage Upgrade Project (WoSUP) is a major infrastructure project for South Gippsland Water and will take several years to plan, design and construct.

We have recently started work on a range of technical studies, and through these, are looking for ways to optimise environmental, social, cultural and economic outcomes from the project. Over the next few months, we will share what we are learning from the studies, and ask the community and stakeholders to share their ideas and suggestions with us.

Importantly, a modernised sewerage system will aim to increase resource recovery. Water re-use options are being thoroughly explored. If it's possible, we'd like to make better use of our valuable water resources and limit our reliance on the ocean outfall.

> ### *Did you know…?*
>
> *Wonthaggi's wastewater treatment plant has been **operating for around 50 years***
>
> *'**Sewage**' is the waste that comes from showers, kitchen sinks, toilets, shops and factories; and '**Sewerage**' is the system that has been built to collect, treat and discharge it.*
>
> *Sewage is normally comprised of **99% water and 1% waste***

What's the timeline?

2025 - 2026: Technical investigations and consultation with regulators, stakeholders and community. These activities will inform our plans and the design for the treatment plant upgrade.

2026 – 2028: Preparing the design, a business case, and our next Price Submission to the Essential Services Commission (ESC). We will use these to seek approval for funding to undertake the treatment plant upgrade that will serve our community.

2029 - 2031: Upgrading the treatment plant from a lagoon-based system to a mechanical one. Tendering and construction is expected to take 2-3 years. The upgraded system will be capable of treating a lot more sewage and treat it to a higher standard for reuse or release to the environment.

Beyond 2031: Transfer pipeline - We will upgrade the pipeline that takes treated water to the ocean outfall.

Ocean outfall - At this stage, the ocean outfall will not be changed. However, if its capacity is reached, and opportunities for reuse do not keep pace, an upgrade of the outfall could be required sometime in the future.

Keep informed and share your ideas

The community and stakeholders will have plenty of opportunity to get involved and help us refine our plans and design. South Gippsland Water and consultants RMCG will be visiting communities and meeting with interest groups and stakeholders throughout the region from July to October 2025.

If you want to get more information, would like to organise a project briefing for your community group, are keen to provide comment or register your interest, get in touch with our project engagement team:

Email us at **wosup@rmcg.com.au** or call **0456 774 170**

You can also check South Gippsland's website for information and project updates: **sgwater.com.au**

Wonthaggi Sewerage UPGRADE PROJECT