



## Project update #3: November 2025

South Gippsland Water provides vital water and wastewater services to the community. We collect and treat sewage from homes, businesses, and community facilities across the region.

The Wonthaggi wastewater treatment plant (located 2.5 km west of town on a 95-acre site) and an outfall pipeline serve the communities of Wonthaggi, Dalyston and Kilcunda. Inverloch and Cape Paterson have their own treatment plants, but share the ocean outfall at Baxters Beach, near Wonthaggi. All three plants treat wastewater to EPA standards before it can be reused or discharged to the ocean.

Wonthaggi's population is projected to grow 30% to 13,000 by 2036, pushing the current lagoon-based treatment system to capacity within 5 – 10 years. This is essential infrastructure for a growing region.

The Wonthaggi Sewerage Upgrade project (WoSUP) will upgrade the existing lagoon system to a mechanical plant. This project will ensure the sewerage system can meet future demand and it will be designed to optimise environmental, social, cultural, and economic outcomes. WoSUP is a major infrastructure project and will take several years to plan, design, and construct.

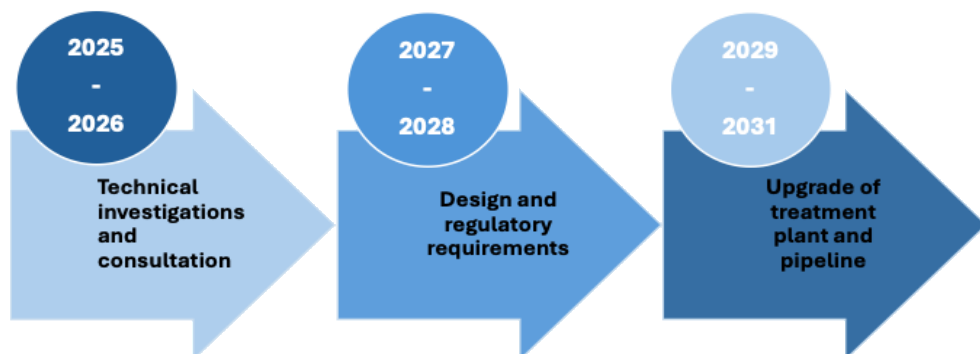
### *What's happening on the project?*

*Steady progress has been made on the project in the last few months. More than a dozen specialist studies are underway or completed, providing detailed environmental and technical information that will help us shape the design.*

*We have also been talking to community groups, government agencies and other interested people, to understand their priorities for the project and ideas that can influence and improve the final design.*

*The table overleaf shows how we are investigating and using all these community inputs.*

### Project Timeline



### Keep informed and share your ideas

If you want to get more information, provide a comment or organise a project briefing for your community group, email or call our project engagement team: [wosup@rmcg.com.au](mailto:wosup@rmcg.com.au) or ph. 0456 774 170

You can also visit the South Gippsland Water's website [www.sgwater.com.au](http://www.sgwater.com.au)

## Community feedback and response

Theme	What we have heard	How we are using these ideas and information
Agricultural & commercial reuse	Interest in recycled water from agricultural and commercial users	<b>Options open.</b> The Reuse report has recently been completed with several opportunities identified. Discussions with potential users and options assessments are ongoing.
Purple pipe & 'non-potable' reuse	Interest in recycled water (e.g., purple pipe) for non-drinking purposes	<b>Investigations underway.</b> Viability depends on final water quality and cost assessments. This is significant infrastructure and would require partnership agreements and shared funding.
Firefighting & training	Interest in water supply for firefighting and training	<b>Options open.</b> This will be dependent on final water quality, access and safety assessments.
Standpipe	Interest in recycled water for local community use	<b>Options open.</b> Potential uses for dust suppression, watering of street trees and community revegetation projects. Options will be dependent on the final water quality and safety assessment.
Quality of the discharge water	Community interest in understanding discharge standards and avoiding or minimising marine impacts	<b>Investigations underway.</b> We're working to understand what is possible and feasible. The mechanical plant upgrade will improve treated water quality. Final water quality will also be influenced by reuse customer needs and cost-benefit analysis. The ocean outfall at Baxters Beach will still be required into the future. Final design and treatment processes will ensure that water quality meets EPA licence parameters.
Biosolids, reuse & circular economy	Support for exploring biosolids reuse and partnerships	<b>Investigations underway.</b> Our work to date has identified opportunities for composting and the use of alternative technologies. Feasibility and partnerships are being investigated.
Walking tracks & recreation	Strong interest in recreational links and environmental access	<b>Options open.</b> Opportunities identified (e.g., birdwatching). Must be balanced with industrial site requirements and public safety.
Energy & emissions	Desire for emissions reduction and renewable energy generation	<b>Investigations underway.</b> Conversion to a mechanical plant will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and on-site energy generation options are being investigated.
Revegetation, wetlands & waterway rehabilitation	Interest in enhancing Wonthaggi Main Drain, revegetation, screening and wetlands	<b>Investigations underway.</b> Opportunities for collaboration with Traditional Owners, environmental groups & other stakeholders. Potential biodiversity gains and Powlett River water-quality benefits.
Amenity	Minimise noise and odour	<b>Investigations underway.</b> Baseline noise and odour monitoring studies are being undertaken.
Economic & financial: costs & local business	Interest in local job/contract opportunities and cost transparency	<b>Supported.</b> We will implement 'Local Jobs First' state policy. Cost-benefit analyses and Essential Services Commission approval will be required. External funding options are also being explored.

