



Project update # 4: April 2026

Wonthaggi's Wastewater Treatment Plant has been operating for over 50 years and is due for an upgrade.

Projected population growth and increased demand is pushing the current lagoon-based treatment system towards capacity. This is essential infrastructure for a growing community and upgrade planning has started.

Wonthaggi's treatment plant and its discharge pipeline serve the communities of Wonthaggi, Dalyston and Kilcunda.

Two other nearby treatment plants (at Inverloch and Cape Paterson) also send their treated water to meet the Wonthaggi pipeline, so they can share a single ocean outfall at Baxters Beach.

Wastewater is treated to strict health and environment standards that are set by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), before the water can be reused or discharged to the ocean.

The Wonthaggi Sewerage Upgrade Project will secure and improve important infrastructure for local communities.

Our plans are adaptive and responsive.

2025 was a busy year for investigating and planning the Wonthaggi Sewerage Upgrade Project (WoSUP).

We started a broad range of technical studies, some of which are continuing for a full year. These studies provide us with important technical, environmental and cultural information.

We have also been speaking with interested people, community groups, Traditional Owners, customers, government agencies and neighbours to hear their ideas, issues and aspirations.

More recently, we began exploring a range of design, staging and cost options.

2026 has started with a thorough review of options. Our plans and designs are continuing to adapt in response to what we have learned through 2025.

Having an adaptive plan and undertaking thorough options analysis will ensure that future WoSUP investment is prudent, efficient and will deliver long-term value to our community and environment.

How community and stakeholder feedback is influencing our decisions

Engagement during 2025 identified eight themes of community interest. These ideas are already influencing our studies and options analysis. At this early stage of planning, we are working to ensure each of these themes is carefully considered.

- *Using treated water for agricultural, commercial & community purposes*
- *Improving quality of the discharge water to the ocean*
- *Using biosolids and creating a more circular economy*
- *Creating walking tracks and recreational opportunities (such as bird watching)*
- *Using renewable energy and reducing emissions*
- *Revegetating and improving wetlands and waterways (for biodiversity and connectivity)*
- *Considering site amenity (including visual, noise and odour)*
- *Keeping cost to customers reasonable (including seeking alternative funding sources)*

Finding the balance

We are focussed on balancing environmental protection, service reliability and affordability for customers. Our ongoing studies and costings will guide the approach we take. By the end of 2026, we aim to have preliminary designs and work programs finalised for WoSUP.

Throughout this year we will continue to keep the community informed and will engage with stakeholders to help inform our decisions.



Keep informed and share your ideas

If you want more information, would like to provide comment or organise a project briefing for your community group, email or call our project team:

sgw@sgwater.com.au

call 1300 851 636 (menu option #5).

You can also find project information and updates on the South Gippsland Water's website www.sgwater.com.au