

Merimbula Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade and Ocean Outfall

Need

The beach-face outfall and dunal exfiltration ponds have caused community concern around their impact on the aquatic environment and risk to public health. The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) required Council to investigate treated wastewater management options. Council and a community focus group agreed that treated wastewater reuse and ocean disposal of excess was the preferred management option.

Compared to other options, this treated wastewater management option:



has the greatest
environmental
benefit



has the least
construction &
operational impacts



is a sustainable,
long term solution

Key facts

The beach-face outfall and dunal exfiltration ponds are unacceptable to the community and the environmental regulator.

The current outfall discharges treated excess wastewater (that cannot be reused for land irrigation) in the middle of Merimbula beach.

EPA amended Merimbula Sewage Treatment Plant's (STP) Environment Protection Licence directing Council to upgrade the plant and build an ocean outfall.

The STP upgrade will treat wastewater to a higher quality for ongoing reuse, such as irrigation, and disposal of excess wastewater.

Currently, Merimbula reuses between 20 and 25 per cent of the annual average treated wastewater produced at the STP.

During wet weather, not all treated wastewater can be reused for irrigation. The ocean outfall will safely dispose of excess treated wastewater that can't be stored or reused.

Timeline

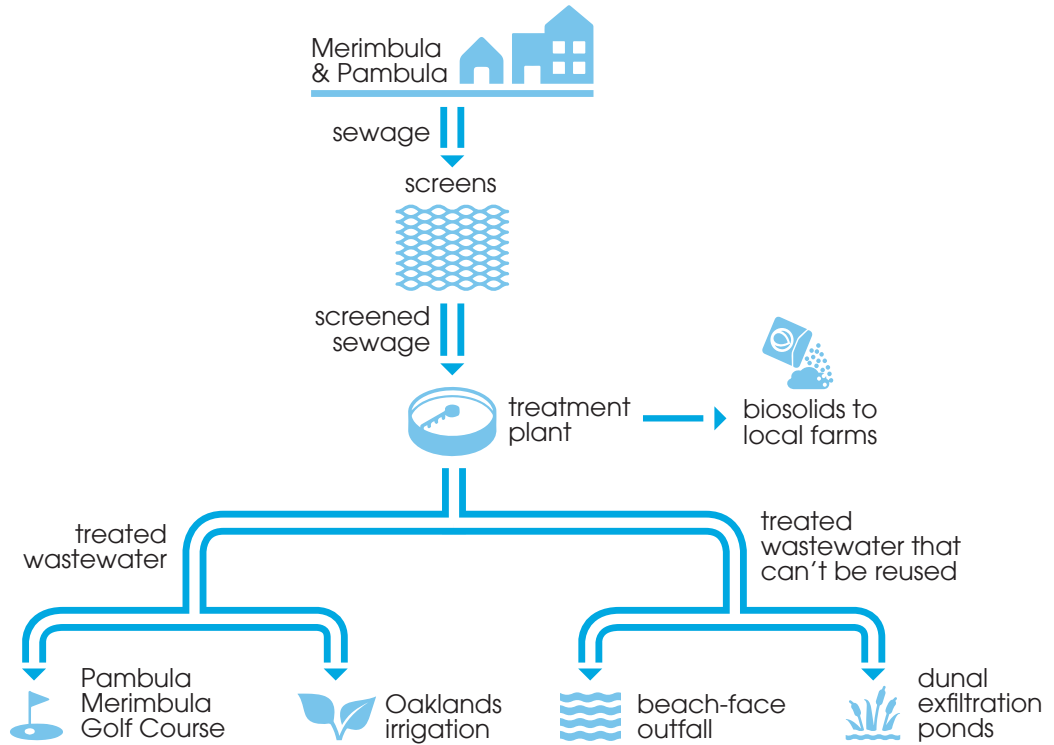


We want to hear from you

Community input is a key part of this project. We encourage you to get involved at all stages of the project. You will have opportunities to access information and provide input through our:

-  begavalley.nsw.gov.au/MerimbulaSTPupgrade
-  1800 029 478 (during business hours)
-  merimbulaSTPupgrade@begavalley.nsw.gov.au

Now



Future

