

AMENDED ITEM



Item No: 5.1
Title: Questions with Notice
Department: Governance

24 August 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2020/00039 - D14104865

Questions with Notice

The following question was submitted by Councillor Hogan at the Ordinary Meeting 10 August 2020:

Catherine Hill Bay Water and sewer services

Central Coast Council is providing water and sewer services to residents at Catherine Hill Bay which is located in the Lake Macquarie LGA.

- 1 *Could staff please provide a brief report outlining the mechanisms and financial benefits of this arrangement?*
- 2 *Could staff also provide a brief report on the Norah Head treatment plant; how it works, how many lines and what suburbs it services?*

Response provided by Director Water and Sewer:

Central Coast Council is providing water and sewer services to residents at Catherine Hill Bay which is located in the Lake Macquarie LGA.

- 1 *Could staff please provide a brief report outlining the mechanisms and financial benefits of this arrangement?***

Potable water supply

Solo Water Pty Ltd holds a retail supplier's licence under the Water Industry Competition Act (WICA) to supply drinking water, non-potable water and sewerage services to approximately 470 residential properties in the Catherine Hill Bay development. In future, Solo Water's scheme may be extended to additional development subject to relevant approvals.

Solo Water's subsidiary organisation, Catherine Hill Bay Water Utility Pty Ltd (CHBWU), holds a network operator's licence and have built water and sewerage infrastructure to serve the Catherine Hill Bay development. Solo Water has an agreement with CHBWU to access this infrastructure to supply water and provide sewerage services to customers.

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A 6.5km potable water main owned by CHBWU runs from the point of connection at Central Coast Council's Kanangra reservoir site, along Kanangra Drive, then through the Crangan Bay and Lake Munmorah conservation areas to serve Catherine Hill Bay. The CHBWU scheme incorporates a 1-million litre reservoir at Catherine Hill Bay for storage and fire flow demands. No drinking water is being trucked to Catherine Hill Bay from Council's supply system. Water carting may be required during an emergency however daily supply is transferred by the above-mentioned pipeline.

Effluent removal scheme

Treated sewage effluent from Catherine Hill Bay is discharged into Council's sewerage system at present under a liquid trade waste approval. This treated effluent is trucked from Catherine Hill Bay to Toukley Sewage Treatment Plant.

The liquid trade waste approval was issued initially on 31 October 2017 for the discharge of untreated domestic sewage to Toukley STP via tankers as Catherine Hill Bay STP was still under construction at that time. In November 2018, CHBWU commissioned its Catherine Hill Bay STP, and a significant portion of the treated effluent being recycled on site for irrigation use. CHBWU continues to truck its surplus treated effluent under the same liquid trade waste approval and associated fee structure.

Solo Water has made a formal application to dispose of its surplus treated effluent directly to Gwandalan Sewage Treatment Plant via a gravity main. Water and Sewer's Liquid Trade Waste team is currently working with Department of Planning Industry and Environment (DPIE) for a concurrence approval of this application.

Financial structure

Council treats Solo Water as a large single customer and invoices them at the rates prescribed by NSW Independent Pricing and Review Tribunal (IPART). Potable water charges are determined according to an annual water service charge and volumetric supply charges. No bulk supply agreement exists between Council and Solo Water, and the connection is subject to Water Supply Developer Charges in line with the Development Servicing Plan.

In terms of effluent disposal, Council treats Solo Water as an industrial customer. Solo Water will be invoiced according to IPART prescribed charges for the quantity of water they discharge into Council's sewerage system and for any chemical or biological loads exceeding the concentrations prescribed by DPIE.

2 Could staff also provide a brief report on the Norah Head treatment plant; how it works, how many lines and what suburbs it services?

Council's Toukley Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) is located in the suburb of Norah Head. It treats domestic sewage from the neighboring suburbs of Budgewoi, Buff Point, Canton Beach, Gorokan, Halekulani, Lake Haven, Magenta, Norah Head, Noraville, Toukley, Tuggerawong and Wyongah. Approximately 229 km of sewer mains and five sewage pump

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stations are in the catchment of Toukley STP to bring domestic sewage, and commercial and industrial liquid waste to the plant.

Toukley STP has a septic area that receives trucked liquid waste from approved liquid trade waste contractors (such as Australian Natural Landscapes, Remondis, Toxfree and CAC Transport), sewer pump station clean outs and chemical toilet waste. Toukley STP also receives trucked sewage from the Catherine Hill Bay development.

At the STP, incoming sewage and liquid trade waste undergoes a series of complex physical, chemical and biological treatment processes to:

- a) remove coarse floating matter;
- b) remove heavy and suspended particles (such as grit, egg shell, metal pieces, etc);
- c) degrade organic matter in sewage
- d) settle degraded organic matter;
- e) separate water from organic solids;
- f) extract biosolids; and
- g) kill pathogenic microorganisms in treated effluent.

All disposed solid and liquid material from Toukley STP are required to meet the regulatory and legislative standards and guidelines, and the performances and potential non-compliances are regularly reported to internal and external stakeholders and regulatory agencies.

Treated effluent from Toukley STP is disinfected and discharged to the ocean outfall tank. In addition to Toukley STP effluent, this outfall tank receives treated effluent from Charmhaven, Mannering Park, Gwandalan and Wyong South STPs. The combined effluent from five STPs in the outfall tank is disposed via the Norah Head Ocean Outfall.

A portion of treated effluent is treated further at Toukley STP to tertiary standards (chlorine and ultra-violet disinfection). This water is used on-site for STP operations and for hosing down tanks and equipment. This treated water is also taken offsite to irrigate ovals, parks and golf courses, and for dust suppression and concretion.

During one of the biological treatment processes (digester phase), methane gas is produced. Methane gas is captured at the digester and is used at the boilers to maintain an optimum temperature for the microorganisms to operate in the biological treatment process.

Suspended matter and solids extracted from incoming sewage are disposed in landfills. Biosolids collected from the treatment process is dewatered and trucked off site to the Australian Native Landscapes site to be processed further and be mixed with green waste to make compost, fertiliser, potting mix and other similar products. Extracted grease and oil are disposed as they cannot be treated further.

5.1 Questions with Notice (contd)

The following question was submitted by Councillor Hogan:

Ratepayers per ward

What is the total number of ratepayers per ward? What is the revenue collected per ward per annum?

Response provided by the Unit Manager Financial Services:

The number of ratepayers and revenue (ordinary rates revenue) collected per ward is shown in the table below. Ordinary rates revenue is levied based on the individual properties land value.

Annual charges revenue (fixed prices per service for Domestic Waste, Water, Sewer and Drainage) have not been included in the information below.

<i>As at 17/8/2020</i>	Gosford East	Gosford West	Wyong	The Entrance	Budgewoi	Total
Number of Ratepayers	26,804	31,959	28,012	27,971	26,509	141,255
Ordinary Rate Revenue	33,554,582	33,042,727	32,183,314	41,511,942	31,342,463	171,635,028

The following question was submitted by Councillor Gale:

AC Unit at Gosford Regional Gallery

Can Council confirm if the large air conditioning unit placed on the Reserve boarding the Gosford Regional Gallery and Japanese Gardens (George St East Gosford) is temporary or permanent? Was a DA lodged for this unit?

Response provided by Director Connected Communities:

The new chiller system placed in the Gallery grounds is a permanent installation, replacing the old chiller system that was installed in the same location in 2010. The system has reached the end of its serviceable life and failed. The chiller system is essential to the running of the Gallery, as without it the Gallery cannot maintain suitably air-conditioned gallery spaces required to host exhibitions.

A Development Application was not required as the replacement could proceed as an exempt development under State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007.

Attachments

Nil