

STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME ONGOING ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY REPORT

2025

STUARTS POINT SEWERAGE SCHEME

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2025 Engagement Overview

Summary table:

	Autumn
Mail out to households	577
Community information session	7 attendees
Virtual session	Cancelled – no registrations

As of April 2025, the team also provided written updates and attended two meetings of the local community organisation, Stuarts Point and District Community Organisation (SPADCO).

Engagement summary report April 2025 – November 2025

This document is a working draft and will be revised after each information session. It will include an overview of each information session along with communication collateral.

The sessions are planned quarterly but may include extra meetings if needed as the project progresses.

Autumn 2025

Purpose: The purpose of the session was to provide the community with an update on the project and offer an opportunity to engage directly with the project team while allowing attendees to have their questions answered.

Description: The project team held a community information session at the Stuarts Point Community Hall from 5pm to 6pm, featuring a presentation followed by an opportunity for attendees to ask questions. A virtual session was also planned for those unable to attend in person, but due to no registrations it was cancelled.

Context: The community information session was held to update the public on the progress of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), including changes to the dunal discharge area. The session also aimed to inform attendees that the project has secured additional funding from the Australian Government's Housing Support Program.

Materials: Included copies of the community flyer and a PowerPoint presentation.

Community participation: Seven community members attended the community drop-in session, and none registered for the virtual information sessions.

Project team:

- Wes Trotter: Director Utilities
- Bill Dubelaar: Lead Project Engineer
- Rennie Ferguson: Senior Project Manager
- Kate Baartz: Communications and Engagement



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- Ash Soanes: Communications and Engagement

New questions to add to FAQs:

Q. What should I do if my septic tank is failing?

A. Engage a qualified plumber or contact Environmental Health team for advice. Additionally, there is information about septic tanks and how to keep your system operating well on our website.

Our Environmental Health team also undertake regular inspections, they can be contacted on 02 6566 3200 or via email ksc@kempsey.nsw.gov.au during our normal operating hours - Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 4.30pm.

Note: Many of the questions were similar to what we had received prior. We captured only new questions that weren't already addressed in the FAQs document.

Summary

This summary provides an overview of the concerns, questions, and feedback raised during the Stuarts Point Information Session held on 3 April 2025 at the Stuarts Point Community Hall. The project team was present from 5:00 pm, with the presentation starting shortly after. The session concluded at 6:15 pm, as a few attendees stayed to discuss matters with the team.

The session offered local residents an opportunity to engage directly with the project team, raise issues, and seek clarification on the project. Please note that due to a faulty projector, two laptops were set up for attendees to view the presentation. We will address this issue before the next session.

The session addressed topics including environmental impacts, sewerage management, infrastructure, and development. Key concerns focused on the effects of dunal discharge on the beach and river, the extension of the EIS, and the use of treated water for irrigation. Attendees raised questions about the potential for future development, the impact on the village's character, Council transparency, sewerage costs in rates, and the tender process.

Environmental impact questions and concerns

- Concerns about dunal discharge: attendees raised concerns about the impact of the dunal discharge plans on the beach and river, including potential effects on marine life such as crabs and pippis.
 - *This is part of the EIS biodiversity investigations.*
- How deep under the river do you go down?
 - *8m below.*
- Beach damage impact: attendee asked if the current damage to the beach from the storms had made a difference to the plans.
 - *The answer was no.*



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- EIS extension: an attendee asked why the project was granted another 12 months for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and enquired about when the extension would finish.
 - *The reason for the extension was that the project area has changed with a different configuration for the dunal discharge site being slightly outside the original area and needing additional assessment. The 12mth extension was granted by DPE to avoid having to extend again. The intention is for the EIS to be submitted end of June 2025.*
- Access to reports: when do we get to see the reports?
 - *Public exhibition will be 28 days open for community comment. We will notify community when this is open for comment.*

Sewerage and wastewater management

- Irrigation and treated water use: Attendees suggested it would be great to use treated water for irrigation to keep the oval green, and enquired whether the treated water would be sold.
 - *It was noted that using and selling the water is an option, but the plant must be capable of handling 100% allocation of wastewater.*
- Treated water distribution: if the treatment plant is in Fisherman's Reach, how does the treated water get to the beach?
 - *Underground pipes.*
- What do people do with septic systems that are failing now?
 - *Question added to FAQs*
- Questions about system capabilities: attendee asked what can't be put down the toilet and whether house systems can handle oils.
 - *They were informed that this information can be accessed on the project website.*
- Drainage and guttering concerns: an attendee mentioned that she was told her issues with drainage and lack of guttering wouldn't be fixed until after the completion of the sewerage scheme.
 - *Team member explained that this isn't the case, and her details have been passed on to the correct person in Council to contact her and address her concerns.*

Project, infrastructure and systems

- Are the designs for the town complete?
 - *Yes.*
- What's the construction period?
 - *18 months.*



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- Will you have a pump station?
 - *No, it will be at the treatment plant.*
- Is it a vacuum system?
 - *No, it's a pressure system.*
- How do we get water quality tested?
 - *Council started water quality testing of the Macleay Arm in 2025.*

Development and its impact on the village concerns

- Concerns about development impact: some attendees expressed fears that the project would ruin the village and change its character, with concerns about the town becoming overdeveloped like Scotts Head or South West Rocks.
- Holiday projections for 12 months and 20 years from now.
- Comment regarding vacant land: developments have been delayed in the past due to a lack of infrastructure. However, with the new sewerage infrastructure, the attendee suspects these developments will proceed.

Funding and Council concerns

- Funding received from the Australian Government for the housing Support Program had mixed feelings.
- Concerns about Council transparency: some attendees raised issues regarding Council's transparency with spending, believing that Council had wasted money. They also emphasised the need for more transparency in publishing costs and questioned where their money was going.
 - *Team member* suggested they look at the annual budget on the Council website.
- Sewerage costs in Council rates: attendees raised the point that sewerage costs are included in their Council rates.
 - *Team member* was shown attendees rates notice and explained the line item was for stormwater, not sewerage.

Tender related questions

- Who won the tender?
 - *The tender hasn't been issued yet, we are working through timing for its release based on EIS submission and general project planning*
- Will only the winning tender will be visible?
 - *Yes, this is correct*
- Is the tender written?



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- Yes
- How many pages are the tenders?
 - *Hundreds*

Actions:

- Pass on attendee details to the appropriate Council team to address questions about drainage and stormwater.
- Update the FAQs with any new questions raised during the session.
- Identify a solution to the projector issues and ensure handouts are available as a backup.

Virtual Information Session

There was one session scheduled via MS Teams, on Friday 4 April 8am with registrations required. The session was cancelled as there were no registrations.

Figure 1 Figure 1 image of Autumn 2025 information session



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Engagement Collateral: Autumn 2025 community update
The following flyer was delivered to all properties within the project area.



Kempsey Shire Council is developing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme as part of the State Significant Development process. The Scheme will service Stuarts Point, Grassy Head and Fishermans Reach and provide a modern, reliable means of collecting and treating sewage and disposing of treated effluent.

Environmental Impact Statement

The detailed site investigations for the dunal discharge area are now complete. This work involved:

- Further geotechnical investigations to better understand the hydrogeology of a changed dunal discharge configuration.
- Infiltration testing of the sand.
- Groundwater modelling of discharge of effluent to the surface over the changed configuration.

The dunal discharge area has been reconfigured as a result of these investigations, and is now a longer, but narrower layout. Conceptual layouts will now be developed to inform the design and environmental assessment to allow the EIS to be updated.

Now the final dunal discharge area has been identified, we are able to undertake additional

flora and fauna surveys of the reconfigured dunal discharge area and complete the biodiversity assessment.

We are on track to finalise and submit the EIS to the NSW Government mid-year.

Funding

We are excited to confirm that the Australian Government has recently announced that Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme is one of several critical infrastructure projects to receive funding from the Housing Support Program.

We applied for and will receive \$45 million to complete the project, and are waiting to receive further information about the deed and milestones for the project.

Project achievements and next steps			
2024 Property audits completed and community drop-in sessions held. Studies underway for EIS.	EOI for design and construction of WWTP completed. EIS studies reviewed and areas for further investigation identified.	Early 2025 Detailed dunal discharge investigations and modelling. Dates for community sessions confirmed. Additional biodiversity surveys complete.	Australian Government funding announcement. Mid 2025 EIS submitted.



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Community Information

At the November 2024 community session, we discussed the timing and frequency of community updates. Attendees agreed that we should continue providing quarterly updates in 2025, with a hard copy community update delivered to all households in Stuarts Point, Fishermans Reach and Grassy Head followed by a face-to-face information session and a virtual information session.

The format for the face-to-face sessions in 2025 is slightly different. Instead of being a drop-in session, the Kempsey Shire Council project team will provide a briefing on where the project is up to. Following this, the team will answer any questions from attendees.

Subscribe to stay up to date
The project page is being updated regularly with frequently asked questions and project information.

Scan the QR code below, scroll to the bottom of the project page and press 'Subscribe to this page' to be notified about updates.



Community information sessions



Thursday 3 April
5pm to 6pm
Stuarts Point Community Hall



Friday 4 April
8am to 8.30am
Virtual via MS Teams



Thursday 26 June
5pm to 6pm
Stuarts Point Community Hall



Friday 27 June
8am to 8.30am
Virtual via MS Teams



Thursday 18 September
5pm to 6pm
Stuarts Point Community Hall



Friday 19 September
8am to 8.30am
Virtual via MS Teams



Thursday 27 November
5pm to 6pm
Stuarts Point Community Hall



Friday 28 November
8am to 8.30am
Virtual via MS Teams

Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme is proudly funded by the NSW Government in association with Kempsey Shire Council.



More information

Additional project information is available by:

- Scanning the QR code
- Visiting Council's website ksc.pub/stuarts-point
- Phoning (02) 6566 3200
- Emailing ksc@kempsey.nsw.gov.au

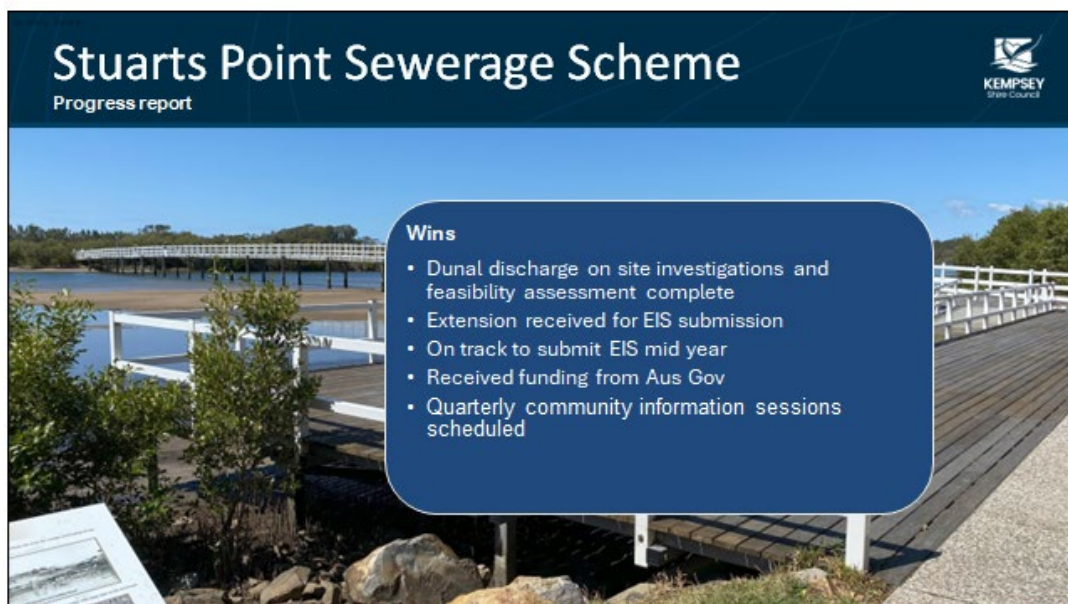


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Engagement Collateral: Autumn 2025 community presentation



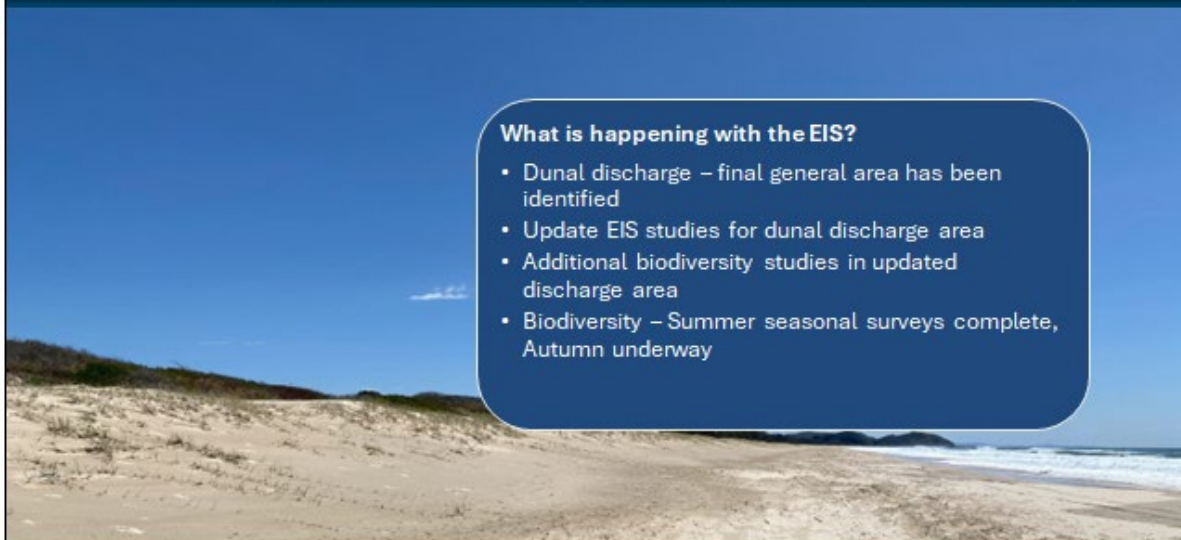
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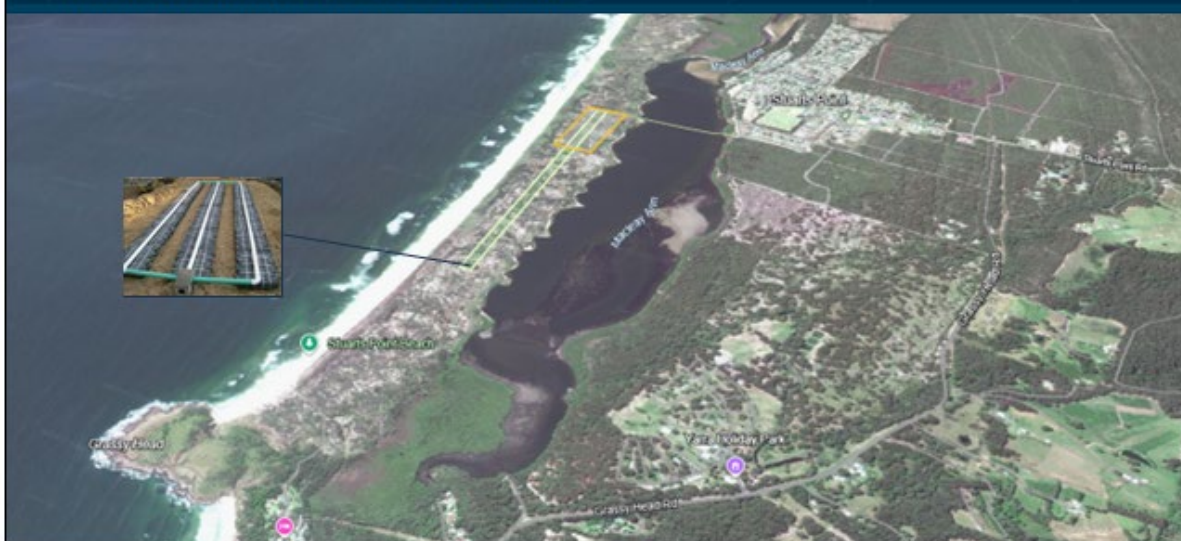


Progress report



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Site Investigation and Feasibility assessment complete



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Look ahead for 2025

What happens next




- Complete dunal discharge concept design – mid 2025
- Submit EIS - mid 2025
- Tender WWTP D&C contractor
- Quarterly community information sessions




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Significant funding secured

Australian Government: Housing Support Program



Secured \$45 million dollars funding from the Australian Government via the Housing Support Program



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Kempsey Shire Council acknowledges the land of the Thunggutti/Dunghutti Nation. We pay respect to Elders past and present. We acknowledge the role of emerging leaders to continue to guide us in the future. We acknowledge the Stolen Generations and the need to change practices to be inclusive. This land always was and always will be Thunggutti/Dunghutti land.




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Community information sessions

2025




Autumn 2025	Winter 2025	Spring 2025	Summer 2025
Thursday 3 April 5pm to 6pm Stuarts Point Community Hall	Thursday 26 June 5pm to 6pm Stuarts Point Community Hall	Thursday 18 September 5pm to 6pm Stuarts Point Community Hall	Thursday 27 November 5pm to 6pm Stuarts Point Community Hall
Friday 4 April 8am to 8.30am Virtual via MS Teams	Friday 27 June 8am to 8.30am Virtual via MS Teams	Friday 19 September 8am to 8.30am Virtual via MS Teams	Friday 28 November 8am to 8.30am Virtual via MS Teams



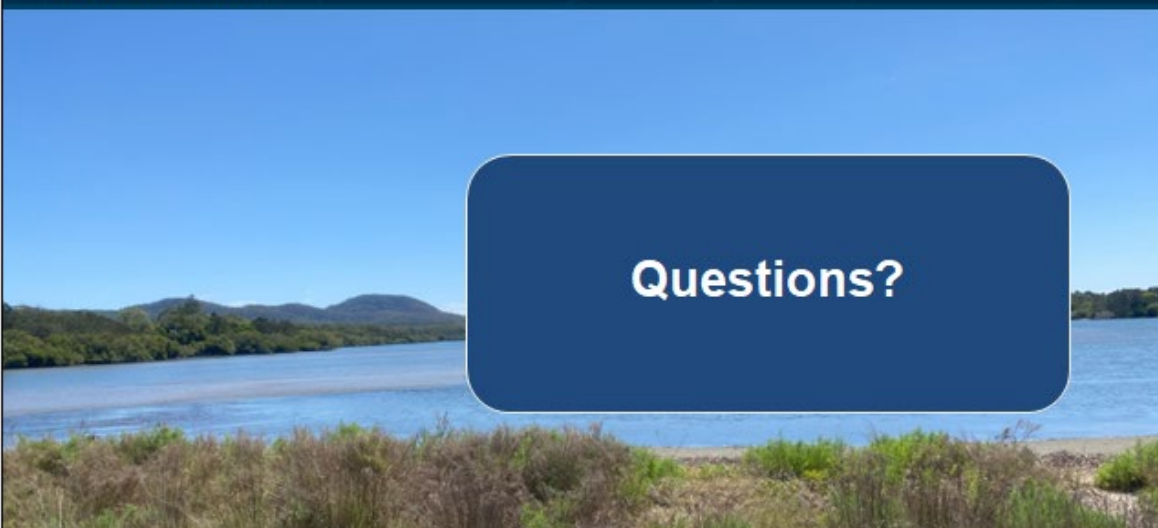
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Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme

Completion: Late 2026



Questions?



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