

Attachment 3

Seventeen Seventy Low Pressure Sewer System External Consultation Undertaken

Impacted Seventeen Seventy Property Owners

A community consultation strategy was developed and implemented with the aim of:

- Recognising the concerns raised by property owners within the LPSS area.
- Providing property owners with details of the three options, including potential financial implications.
- Providing property owners with the opportunity to ask questions and seek clarity on the three options.
- Seeking feedback from all property owners on their preferred options.

Invitations to attend a community consultation session on 13 December 2018 at the Agnes Water Community Centre were sent to impacted property owners of the 1770 LPSS.

The community consultation session was well represented with approximately 25 property owners in attendance. The session consisted of a brief overview of the concerns raised and options developed by Council to address community concerns. Participants were then asked to identify questions specific to each option. These questions were then answered on the spot or participants were advised that additional investigation would be required to answer the question.

Participants were provided with the option of completing their ballot paper on the night or mailing through their feedback prior to 15 February 2019. The ballot paper allowed property owners to vote on their preferred option or provide feedback via an open text box.

Following the consultation session, information packs were sent to all attendees as well as property owners who were unable to attend the consultation session. The information packs included:

- Copy of the power point presentation
- Copy of the questions and answers raised during the consultation session
- Preferred option – voting ballot form.

Community consultation closed on 15 February 2019.

Other Councils

Several Councils with LPSSs were contacted to discuss their experiences, ownership models, how responsibilities are shared between property owners and Council and approximate costings.

The general feedback was that the Councils would recommend operating models consistent with Council's current approach.

One council provided feedback that they were in the process of transferring ownership for on-site pumping systems from Council to property owners. This decision was made as a result of unsustainable costs associated with operating the systems. An analysis of cost to operate for Council owned on-site systems and privately owned on-site systems confirmed that the cost was significantly higher for privately owned systems. Anecdotally the higher costs were attributed to residents taking insufficient care over what entered the system.

The cost to maintain the on-site infrastructure is similar to the costs proposed by Council under Option 4.

Whitsunday Regional Council adopted a Low Pressure Sewerage Reticulation Policy in 2017. The policy outlines all pipes, tanks, pits, pumps, fittings, fixtures and components of the pressure sewerage system on private property up to the boundary kit are considered private assets. The Property Owner is responsible for all repairs, maintenance and replacements as necessary.

Bundaberg Regional Council also has Pressure Sewerage Requirements for Private Properties, the policy defines the ownership and accountabilities is of the property owner for all elements of the pressure sewer pumping unit up to the first valve located in the property boundary kit. This policy is only for developments that are required to connect to the Council sewerage network and has been approved for the use of pressure sewerage system.