



Wastewater System – Forrest Caravan Park

1. Why install a new waste water system at the Forrest caravan park

The current septic tanks at the Forrest Caravan Park are defective, resulting in wastewater leaving the site. The effluent leaving the site is a breach of the Environment Protection Act 1970. Council as the land owner of the property and the leaser has a responsibility to ensure the wastewater system on the site is compliant.

2. Will there be any odour associated with effluent disposal field?

Council is proposing to install a secondary treatment plant. These types of systems are designed to treat the wastewater to a high quality. The treated effluent is then pumped into an absorption bed of sand within the mound. This type of treatment is not conducive to any odour.

3. What if Council doesn't install the wastewater system?

Council, as the land owner and leaser of the property may be in breach of the Environment Protection Act 1970. Wastewater leaving the site is also causing a range of amenity and environmental issues. Council is knowingly allowing the business to discharge wastewater off site.

4. What will be the method of effluent disposal?

The effluent will be treated in a treatment plant and then pumped into a 250,000 litre holding tank. From the holding tank the effluent is pumped into two mounds at the front of the property. The grassed mounds will each be 1.2m high, 6.6 m wide and 57.4 m long. The use of mounds is common and an acceptable form of wastewater disposal.

5. What happens if the wastewater system fails?

The system has been designed for the current use of Caravan Park including the peak time use. Data from Barwon Water was also utilised to assist in determining the current annual water usage. In calculating the daily water load, 100 litres per person per day was used to determine the water output. The system will have a 250,000 litre holding tank that will also be used as additional storage. If the system is overloaded, the only other option is arranging a pump out of the holding tank. This would be at the expense of the lessee.

6. Were there any other solutions to manage wastewater?

Council and its technical specialists considered a range of different options. Due to the various physical and environmental constraints of the site, the use of mounds along the site frontage was the only option that allows for wastewater to be fully dispersed on site to meet State environmental legislation.

7. Will the proposed wastewater system at the caravan park be compatible with the proposed Forrest reticulated water system?

There is not yet any commitment from Government to installation of a town wide sewerage treatment system, however the proposed wastewater system at the Forrest Caravan Park will be compatible with the preferred system identified through the Barwon Water led investigation in 2017/18, and could connect into such a system if implemented in future years.

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8. Will the mounds be visible from the street?

Part of the mound may be visible from the street. However, the existing shrubs and planting of new trees will conceal most of the mounds from street view.

9. How long will it take to construct and will there be any community disruption?

It is anticipated that construction will take several weeks. However, Council will work closely with the Forrest Caravan Park operator to ensure minimal disruption to operations and any events planned i.e. Forrest Soup Fest. It is likely that construction would be outside of the peak periods.

10. Which authority will approve the wastewater system?

The system size is beyond the scope for Council to approve. The system will require approval from the Environment Protection Authority (EPA). The appointed contractor will apply for a Works Approval from the EPA before commencing works.

11. Are any trees being removed?

An apple tree and the silver poplars trees currently inside the front boundary of the site fronting Station Street are to be removed. The silver poplars were assessed by an independent arborist who recommended the trees be removed as they are towards the end of their life and pose an unacceptable risk of limb drop. Council proposes to plant 5 large trees along the Station Street frontage, replacing the existing trees being removed. The landscape plan shows the location of these trees.

12. Is Council still supportive of the Forrest reticulated sewer for the town?

Council is still committed to advocating for a hybrid wastewater scheme. A detailed economic assessment and cost-benefit analysis to support this project is currently underway. The assessment should be completed in the first half of 2020, and will be used to advocate for funding commitments. Council is committed to an ongoing partnership with Barwon Water and the Forrest community to explore opportunities for wastewater improvements in Forrest.

13. Why doesn't Council wait for a reticulated sewerage stem to be installed, and contribute these funds towards that project?

There is no current Government commitment to funding a hybrid wastewater scheme, and even if this was to be made in the short term, delivery of such a project would be several years away. There is a legislative imperative on Council to improve the current wastewater treatment at the caravan park site to meet legislative requirements and address amenity concerns from neighbours. Council cannot delay action in this regard.

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