

# PENSHURST ADAPTIVE WASTEWATER PROJECT



Discussions on what options to pursue in the Adaptive Wastewater Project at Penshurst, November 2019.

## Welcome to the inaugural newsletter for the Adaptive Wastewater Project – Penshurst.

The project team representing Wannon Water, Southern Grampians Shire, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and the consultants Decentralised Water Australia (DWA) are very keen to ensure residents and landowners are kept informed about the project.

A regular newsletter was one of the suggestions made by people who attended our last drop-in session at the Memorial Hall in August 2021. We will use the newsletter to outline our plans and seek feedback on community views.

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# Work to Date

We first introduced the project during face-to-face discussions with the community in November 2019. The project is part of our Integrated Water Management (IWM) work through the [Great South Coast IWM Forum](#).

The problem of failing on-site domestic wastewater systems (septics) is common around regional Victoria and the forum decided to conduct a desktop project to investigate adaptive ways to provide sewerage services for small towns. Peshurst and Cudgee (Moyne Shire) were selected as the [project areas](#).

Consultants DWA came on board, and we developed an approach after discussing the issues with the community. This led to [several reports](#), including a “[Functional Design](#)” for Peshurst.

The team met with Environment Protection Authority (EPA) officials to discuss the plans and they encouraged us to look at a pilot project where we could trial the system in a small section of the town. We could learn lessons along the way that could be applied to a larger scheme if it was determined as feasible.

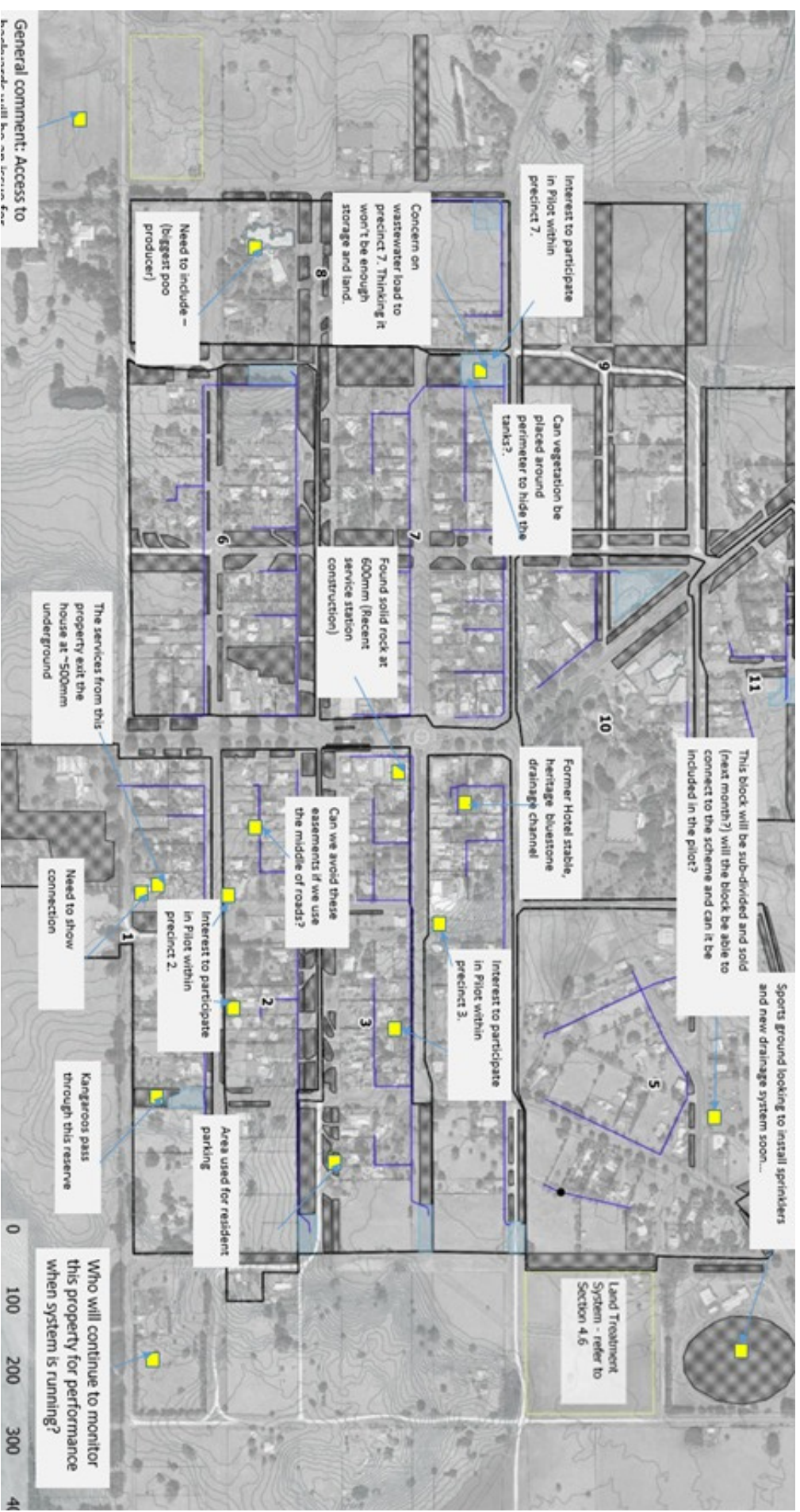
We held another community drop-in session in August 2021 to get local feedback about the pilot, where it should be located and who would want to be involved.

We received some terrific feedback, some of which was written on a map of the town with the 12 precincts identified below.

After much discussion a risk assessment and a Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA), we settled on Precinct 1 as the best precinct for a pilot project due to:

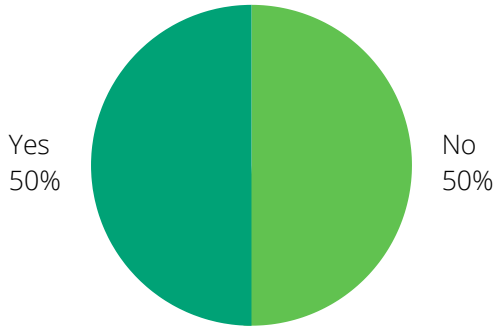
- Engineering feasibility
- Constructability
- Cost
- Governance
- Innovation potential,
- Public health and environmental protection benefits
- Community and property considerations

# What has the community told us so far?

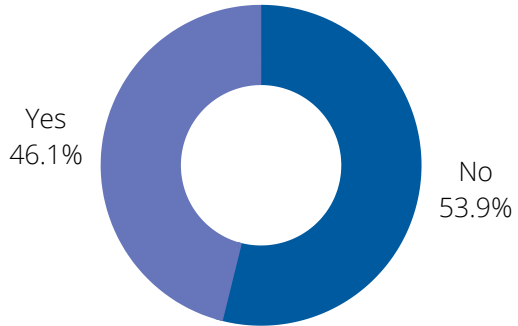


## What has the community told us so far?

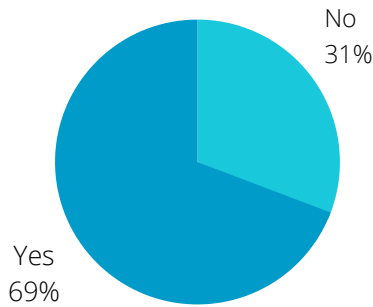
**Are you planning to develop in the next 10 years?**



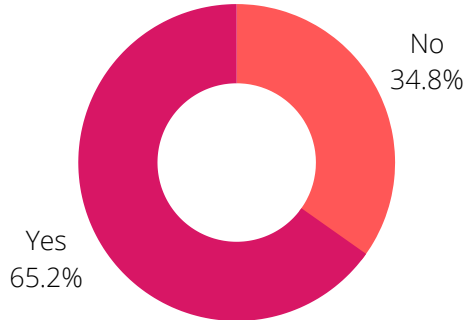
**Do you own vacant land?**



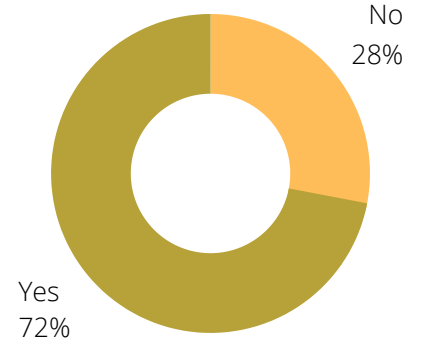
**Do you see value in the pilot?**



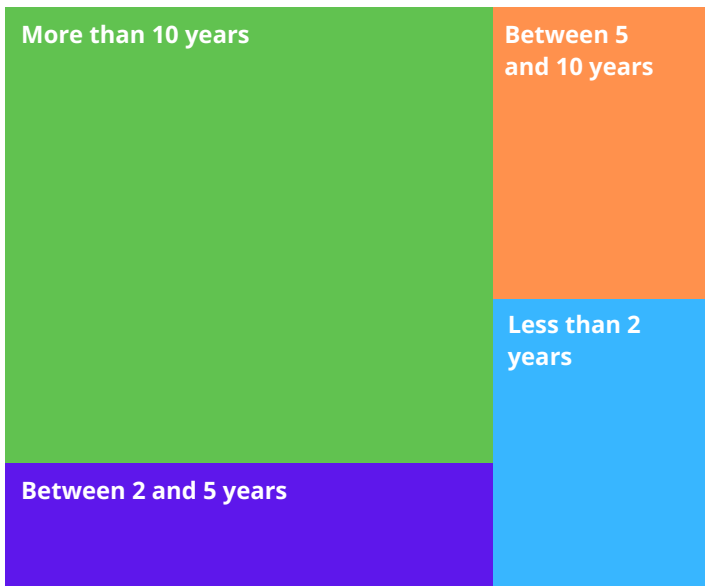
**Are you willing to include your property in the pilot?**



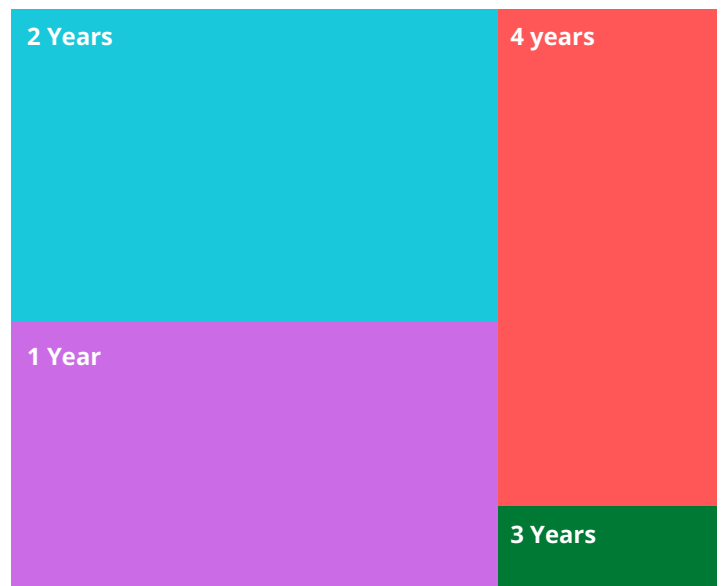
**Are you willing to give feedback during the pilot?**



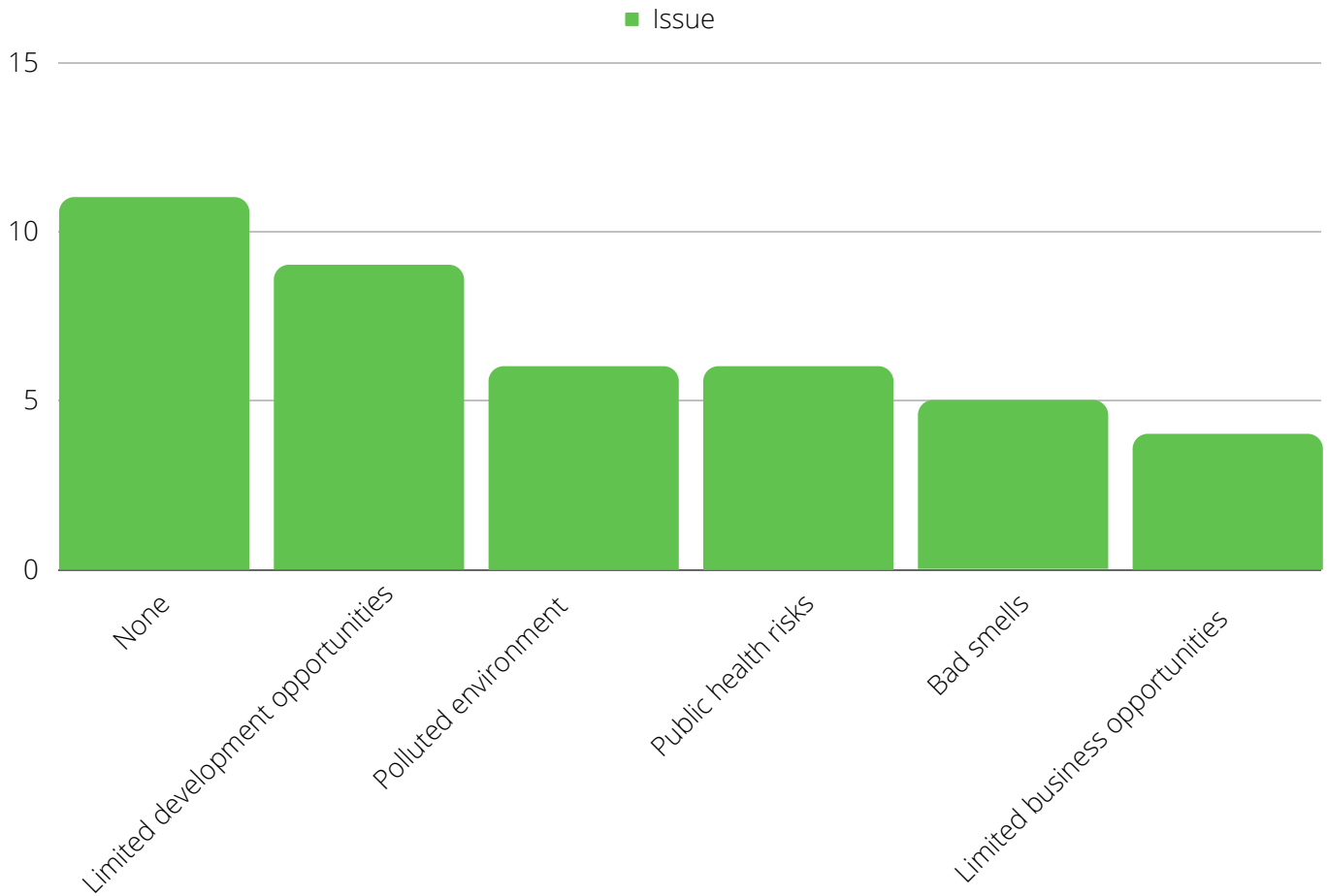
**Time lived in Penshurst**



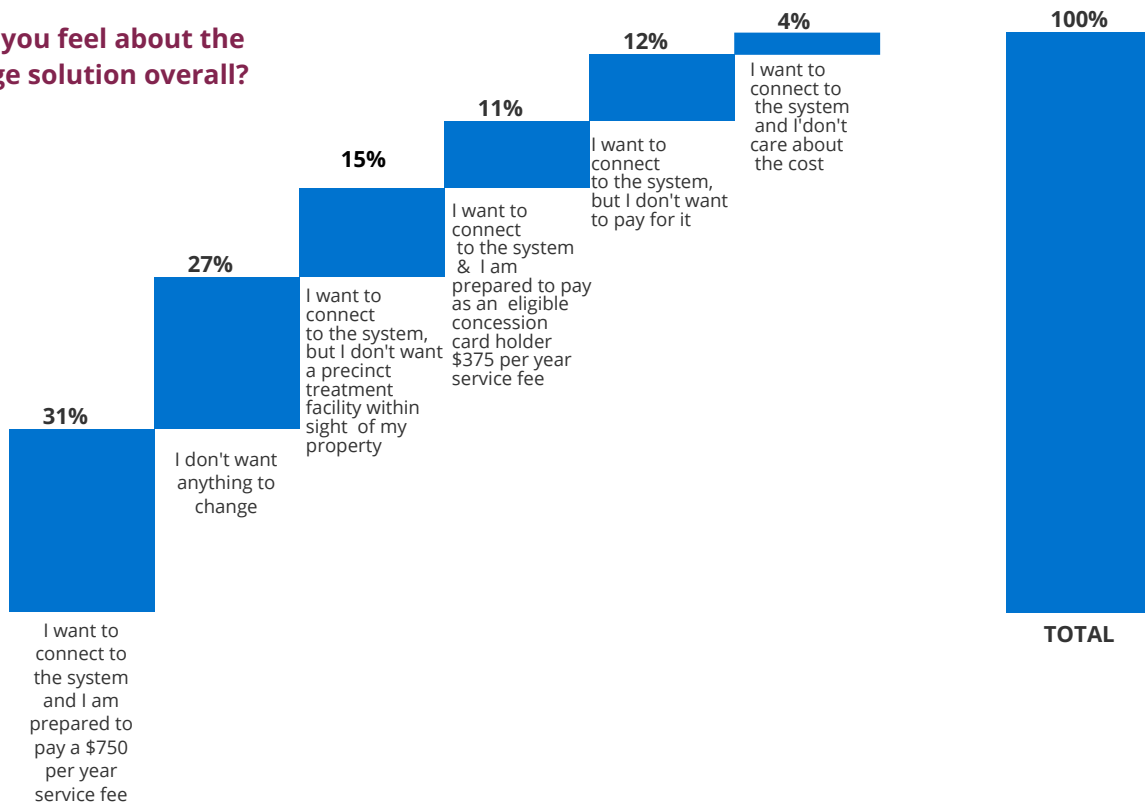
**How long should the pilot run for?**



### Issues experienced the most



### How do you feel about the sewerage solution overall?



## Next Steps

The project team are currently designing specific detail for the pilot project which will include speaking to residents and landowners in Precinct 1. The team hope to be in contact through June 2022 and a site visit will form part of that engagement.

The project team will continue to work on the design and establish funding of the pilot project. The results of the pilot will help inform the town-scale project and provide a better indication of costs.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### *What is an adaptive wastewater project?*

Where towns and communities are constrained for sewerage services, an adaptive wastewater project takes into account specific conditions and challenges (e.g. rocky ground). Unlike traditional sewerage designs such as those in larger towns, it uses methods that are adapted to the environment and specifically targets issues faced by that community.

In Peshurst, we have developed shallow sewerage infrastructure to capture sewage by gravity (mostly) and transmit to 12 different precincts for wastewater treatment. The result is a class of water that can be used to irrigate public land and sporting grounds.

### *How do I know if my property is included in the pilot project?*

A map of the 12 precincts has been included in this newsletter. The pilot project will be in Precinct 1. If your property is in Precinct 1, the project team will contact you. The team would like to hold a telephone conversation with you as a first step.

### *How much will the pilot project cost me?*

If you have a property or live outside Precinct 1, there will be no cost.

Cost and pricing for the project are currently being determined and will be discussed with property owners and residents during our next engagement.

## *Why wasn't my house selected in the pilot project?*

If your house is not in Precinct 1, then your property will not be connected during the pilot project. After the trial is complete and is deemed successful, your house may be connected in future if it is located in one of the 12 precincts. The lessons from the pilot will inform us on what this looks like. You can view the treatment precinct area in Precinct 1 during the trial and provide your feedback to the project team.

## *I live or have a property in Precinct 1, what do I need to do?*

Nothing for now. We will be in contact with you to discuss the pilot project in more detail.

## *Will I be able to develop or subdivide my land while the pilot project is underway?*

Current Council town planning and onsite wastewater management system requirements will apply for the length of the pilot project in all precincts.

## *How is the project being funded?*

We are currently seeking funding for the pilot project as well as the project on a whole town scale. The pilot project will not go ahead until we can secure funding.

## *When will all this happen?*

We are keen to start as soon as we ensure all our design and costings are accurate and once we secure funding. We will keep residents updated on progress via regular newsletters.

## *How do I provide feedback on the project?*

Feedback on the Pilot project is to be directed to:




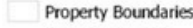
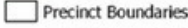

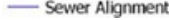

Email: [engagement@wannonwater.com.au](mailto:engagement@wannonwater.com.au)

Post: Wannon Water, Po Box 1158, Warrnambool Vic  
3280

# Precincts Map



**Legend**

-  Public Open Space Subsurface Irrigation
-  Precinct Recycling Systems
-  Potential Land Treatment Facility for Excess Recycled Water
-  Property Boundaries
-  Precinct Boundaries
-  Pump Station (Septic Tank Effluent Pump - STEP)
-  Sewer Alignment
-  Elevation Contours (approx. 0.5m)

