

<b>Policy title</b>	Pressure Sewer Systems
<b>Responsible manager(s)</b>	Director Infrastructure Services
<b>Contact officer(s)</b>	Division Manager Water and Sewer
<b>Directorate</b>	Infrastructure Services
<b>Approval date</b>	22 November 2022
<b>Outcome area</b>	1. Sustainable
<b>Strategy</b>	1.4 Work together in the management and use of our valuable sources
<b>Delivery Program link</b>	1.4.1 Provide a safe, reliable and sustainable water and sewer services, guided by the Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy
<b>Operational Plan link</b>	1.4.1.3 Build and renew sewerage network 1.4.1.4 Operate and maintain sewerage system

## Purpose

This policy provides clear direction as to the extenuating circumstances when Council will permit pressure sewer systems to be connected to Council's gravity sewer system, and the conditions that must be met for such connections to be approved.

One of the main factors affecting sewage quality is septicity. Septicity is caused by the prolonged retention of sewage under anaerobic conditions, particularly during low flow periods. It can be avoided by limiting the retention time in pumping stations and pressure mains. Septicity of sewage leads to offensive odours and damage to sewers and is difficult to treat. To minimise the likelihood of septicity, collection system design includes provision for adequate ventilation of sewers, and minimising detention periods by avoiding the use of sewage pumping stations wherever practicable.

Conventional sewerage systems collect wastewater from serviced properties and transport the wastewater to a sewage treatment facility by gravity, assisted by catchment sewage pumping stations wherever necessary. Gravity collection systems are characterised by adequate ventilation and the least practicable number of pumping stations.

Council operates five gravity sewerage schemes at:

- Surf Beach, servicing the urban communities of Maloneys Beach, Long Beach, Surfside, North Batemans Bay, Batemans Bay, Batehaven, Catalina, Batehaven, Sunshine Bay, Denhams Beach, Surf Beach, Lilli Pilli and Malua Bay.
- Tomakin, servicing the urban communities of Mogo, Tomakin, Mossy Point, and Broulee.
- Moruya, servicing the urban communities of Moruya and Moruya Heads.
- Bingie, servicing the urban communities of Tuross Head and Turlinjah.
- Kianga, servicing the urban communities of Dalmeny, Kianga and North Narooma and Narooma.

Pressure sewerage is an alternative type of collection system to conventional gravity sewerage. In pressure sewerage schemes individual pumping stations deliver wastewater from each serviced property into a common pressure pipe which delivers the wastewater to a sewage treatment facility by pressure mains rather than by gravity. Pressure sewerage systems by design have inadequate ventilation and the maximum use of pumping stations, and therefore septicity is an inherent feature. Although pressure sewer is often cheaper to construct than gravity sewer, operational costs are usually greater due to the increased reliance on mechanical and electrical systems.

Pressure sewer catchments that discharge septic sewage into gravity systems can cause odour problems and a reduced life of gravity system components. Council therefore has a clear preference for conventional gravity sewerage.

Council however recognises that a conventional gravity sewerage system is not always practicable. This policy provides clear direction on the extenuating circumstances where pressure sewer systems will be permitted to connect to a gravity sewer system. Where this is permitted, the requirements for the installation, operation and maintenance of these systems will be in accord with this policy.

### Policy aims

- Promote an integrated framework for dealing with Pressure Sewer Systems applications and for managing approved pressure sewer systems.
- Ensure consistency and fairness in the manner in which the Council deals with Developers.
- Ensure compliance with legislative requirements under the *Local Government Act 1993*.
- Promote awareness of the requirements of the *Act* with respect to Pressure Sewer Systems.
- Take such steps as are appropriate to ensure Pressure Sewer Systems are only installed where required.
- Make the Council's policies and requirements for Pressure Sewer Systems readily accessible and understandable to the public.

### Policy details

<b>1</b>	<p><b>Application</b></p> <p>This policy applies to all landowners in the Eurobodalla local government area.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Legislation</b></p> <p>Section 68 of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> requires that a person may connect a private sewer with a public sewer under Council's control only with the prior approval of the Council, except in so far as a local policy adopted under Chapter 7, Part 3 of the Act allows the activity to be carried out without an approval.</p> <p>Eurobodalla Shire Council will comply with the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>.  <a href="https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-1993-030">https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-1993-030</a></p>

### Implementation

Requirements		Responsibility
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Code of Practice</b></p> <p>Where Council authorises the installation of pressure sewer systems, the systems will be installed, operated, maintained and managed in accordance with Council's <i>Pressure Sewer Systems Code of Practice</i>.</p>	Council officers
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Pressure Sewer Schemes</b></p> <p>Council, in consultation with the community, may decide to construct a pressure sewerage scheme to service an existing unsewered village in preference to conventional gravity sewerage as a low cost solution to allow the scheme to progress. All serviced properties within a pressure sewer scheme will have a pressure sewer system installed.</p>	Council
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Gravity Sewer Schemes</b></p> <p>a) Council managed pressure sewer systems discharging into gravity sewer schemes will not be permitted where:</p>	Council officers

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the property can be otherwise serviced by an extension of an existing gravity sewer or;</li> <li>• the property is located within a drainage catchment where a conventional sewerage system consisting of gravity sewers and a sewage pumping station has the potential to service the equivalent of 10 or more dwellings i.e. equivalent tenements.</li> </ul> <p>b) Council managed pressure sewer systems discharging into gravity sewer schemes may be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• in small drainage catchments where the maximum number of potential properties able to be serviced is less than 10 ET or;</li> <li>• in areas with high water tables where it is impractical to install a gravity sewerage system.</li> </ul> <p>c) The Director Infrastructure Services or Division Manager Water and Sewer must concur with any development consent that permits the installation of Council managed pressure sewer systems being issued.</p> <p>d) Where a property is serviced by a gravity sewer and the proposed development is not able to discharge to the property's sewer connection point by gravity, Council may approve a privately managed pressure sewer system, subject to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the pumping station and rising main being located wholly within the lot being served.</li> <li>• compliance with Council's On-site Sewage Management Code of Practice for privately managed pressure sewer systems.</li> </ul>	
4	<p><b>Construction</b></p> <p>The developer is responsible for the construction of the pressure sewer reticulation system and for the cost of supplying and installing individual pressure sewer units.</p>	Council officers
5	<p><b>Ownership</b></p> <p>a) Council managed pressure sewer schemes - Council will own and maintain the system including the pumping station, control unit, discharge pipeline and boundary kit at each premises.</p> <p>b) Council managed pressure sewer systems - Council will own and maintain the pressure sewer main and property service connections from the main to and including the boundary kit.</p> <p>c) Privately managed pressure sewer systems - the pumping station and rising main will be considered an on-site management system and the operation and maintenance of the system will be the responsibility of the landowner.</p>	Council
6	<p><b>Power Supply</b></p> <p>The pumping unit power supply will not be metered separately, and the occupant of the property being serviced will be responsible for the power costs.</p>	Occupant
7	<p><b>Service Agreement</b></p> <p>Landowners are required to enter into a service agreement with Council. The service agreement will define the expectations of both parties in the operation and maintenance of the pressure sewer system.</p>	Council Landowners

<b>8</b>	<b>Staff</b> Under supervision, applicable Council staff will be responsible for ensuring that policies are implemented appropriately within their work area, after they have received relevant training to do so.	Council officers
<b>9</b>	<b>Concerns</b> Public concerns communicated to Council regarding this policy will be recorded in Council's records system and handled in accordance with Council's Customer Service or Complaints Policy. They will be used to analyse the history of concerns and determine follow up actions.	Council officers
<b>11</b>	<b>Consultation</b> Consultation regarding this policy will occur as relevant with key stakeholders and may include legislative bodies, other agencies, relevant legislation, industry guidelines, and public comment. Public submissions regarding proposed changes to this policy are invited and considered during the policy exhibition period.	As required

### Review

This policy will be reviewed every 4 years. It may also be reviewed and updated as necessary when legislation requires it; or Council's functions, structure or activities change; or when technological advances or new systems change the way that Council manages Pressure Sewer Systems.

The policy may be revoked at the expiration of twelve months after the declaration of the poll for the next general NSW local government election, unless Council revokes it sooner.

Reviews of the effectiveness of this policy could include the following:

Performance indicator	Data source(s)
Delivery Program/ Operational Plan outcomes achieved	Council reporting
Concerns or complaints registered	Council records
Customer feedback, survey responses	Surveys
Internal or external review	Audit

### Governance

This policy should be read in conjunction with any related legislation, codes of practice, relevant internal policies, and guidelines.

#### *Related legislation and policies*

Name	Link
Related Council Policy or Code of Practice	<a href="https://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/council/governance/council-policies">https://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/council/governance/council-policies</a>
Local Government Act 1993	<a href="https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-1993-030">https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-1993-030</a>

#### *Related external references*

Name	Link
Office of Local Government	<a href="http://www.olg.nsw.gov.au">www.olg.nsw.gov.au</a>

*Change history*

Version	Approval date	Approved by	Minute	File No	Change
1	22 Sep 2009	Council	09/291	E09.3418	Policy commenced
2	10 Sep 2013	Council	13/272	E13.7095 E06.0374	Reviewed and updated (start of new Council term) O13/56
3	26 Sep 2017	Council	17/317	E16.0297 E06.0374	Reviewed and updated (start of new Council term) GMR17/052
4	22 Nov 2022	Council	22/313	S004- T00060	Reviewed and updated (start of new Council term)

*Internal use*

Responsible officer	Director Infrastructure Services		Approved by	Council	
Minute	22/313	Report	GMR22/111	Effective date	22 Nov 2022
File	S004- T00060	Review date	22 Nov 2022	Pages	5