WASTEWATER TREATMENT IN THE PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS AREA

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council manages the collection, treatment and disposal of the wastewater generated from our homes, schools and commercial properties every day. Council provides these essential services for residents in the Port Macquarie-Hastings area 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, in order to protect the health of the community and to reduce impacts on the environment.

COLLECTION

Wastewater is collected from residential, commercial and industrial properties and directed to a treatment plant by the wastewater reticulation network. This network currently comprises in excess of:

- 13,455 manholes,
- 630,187 metres of gravity mains,
- 193,400 metres of rising mains and
- 167 sewage pumping stations serving around 28,000 connected premises.

SCHEMES

Council currently operates five wastewater schemes:
- Port Macquarie (including North Shore),
- Wauchope (including Beechwood),
- Kew/Kendall (including Herons Creek),
- Camden Haven and
- Lake Cathie/Bonny Hills.

Each scheme has been individually designed using the best technology available at the time of construction, and each process is slightly different and unique.

FUTURE PROJECTS

- The construction of wastewater schemes in the villages of Long Flat, Comboyne and Telegraph Point.
- Upgrade of the Kew/Kendall wastewater scheme.
- A new sewerage scheme at Thrumster is proposed to service up to 30,000 people.

TIPS TO AVOID COMMON PROBLEMS

Prevent costly blockages or sewage overflows in your home by keeping it free of waste that should ideally be placed in the bin.

Never flush these items down your toilet sink or drain:
- Wet wipes (even if they say they are ‘flushable’)
- Cotton buds
- Sanitary items or condoms
- Baby wipes or make-up wipes
- Nappies & incontinence pads
- Medications or chemicals
- Fats and oils

Put a bin in your bathroom.

SEWER BLOCKAGES

- If you have a sewer blockage in your home, contact your local plumber.
- If you see a damaged manhole, cracked pipe or sewer blockage outside the home please contact Council.

For more information visit pmhc.nsw.gov.au/sewer or call (02) 6581 8111 or email council@pmhc.nsw.gov.au

For emergency (out of hours) call (02) 6581 8125

Follow us on Facebook.

WASTEWATER systems

How the system works ‘after the flush’
Every day wastewater from residential, commercial and industrial properties is collected via a network of pipes and pumping stations, and sent to a Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) in the Hastings area. At the treatment plant, wastewater passes through a number of processes where it is screened, cleaned and treated to separate the solids and the liquids and to remove pollutants. Once cleaned and disinfected, the treated effluent is released back into the environment or recycled for non-drinking purposes.

1 Property/House Drain
Small sewer pipes connect the house to Council’s wastewater system. These can be responsible for stormwater inflow and infiltration. Responsibility of property owner.

2 Manholes
Provide safe access to pipes for maintenance, and need at least 1000mm clearance from obstructions. The manhole has a circular concrete cover, approx. 1200mm in diameter, at ground level. It is illegal to build over manholes or to cover them with soil or grass.

3 Gravity Main
Property drains connect to the council-owned gravity mains, which are laid on a slope to allow sewage to gravity flow to the nearest well or pump station. Size of main depends on number of properties connected, but are a minimum of 150mm.

4 Wastewater Pump Station
Used to collect and pump wastewater up to higher elevations via a rising main, in order to allow transport of wastewater to the WwTP.

5 Rising Main
Used to move wastewater under pressure from a pump to a higher point during transportation of wastewater to WwTP.

6 Wastewater Treatment Plants
Remove solids, organics and nutrients, using biological, chemical and physical processes to separate solids from liquids and to treat contaminants such as salts, heavy metals and biological microbes such as bacteria and algae.