

## **What is happening?**

- Council is continuing to roll out its Southside Sewer Project to connect identified properties to the sewer network.
- The sewer mains in stage 8 have been installed and are fully operational.
- Council will be visiting households in the identified stage 8 area in coming weeks to discuss project progress directly with property owners

## **What does this mean for me and my property?**

- Property owners can now proceed with arranging the connection of their property to the new mains through a licensed plumber of their choice.

## **I need help with this. Who can I contact?**

- Council is committed to ensuring this process is as smooth and convenient as possible for residents and property owners.
- If property owners need further assistance, guidance, or have further questions about the project, they can contact Council on 1300 307 800 or email the dedicated project team at [sewerproject.southside@gympie.qld.gov.au](mailto:sewerproject.southside@gympie.qld.gov.au).
- If property owners need further assistance with the Plumbing application, they can contact Council on 1300 307 800 or email [plumbing@gympie.qld.gov.au](mailto:plumbing@gympie.qld.gov.au).

## **My septic system is only new. Do I still have to connect?**

- If your system is 20 years or older, you will be required to connect to the sewer network.
- If you have a septic system that also includes a treatment system, you may be eligible for an extension.
- If you are unsure, contact Council to discuss your individual circumstances.

**I have engaged a plumber, but the work can't be done within the next 12 months. What can I do?**

- Council is committed to ensuring this process is as smooth and convenient as possible for residents and property owners.
- If property owners need further guidance, they can contact Council on 1300 307 800 or email the dedicated project team at [sewerproject.southside@gympie.qld.gov.au](mailto:sewerproject.southside@gympie.qld.gov.au).

**Are there any other costs in addition to the connection work?**

- Council received external funding from the Queensland Government's Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program to progress the current phase of works.
- This funding has allowed Council to waive the standard \$1060 sewer connection fee.
- The \$799 plumbing application fee will apply which covers a Council inspections and quality assurance for the new connection.

**My property is slated for a later stage of the project. What does this mean for me?**

- Further stages are subject to budget funding and external grant funding.
- Council will continue to keep residents informed as the project progresses.

**Why do I have to pay for my connection when earlier stages had the works completed by Council free of charge?**

- The decision to cover the entire cost of connecting private households to the sewer network was made by a previous Council
- These were extraordinary arrangements made at a former time.
- In August 2022, Council reviewed and amended its broader Sewer Connection Policy, which assessed the separation of responsibilities between Council and property owners when installing sewerage infrastructure.

- This policy was amended to create a more equitable and cost-effective solution that minimises broader impact on the region's ratepayers.

**Why is this project necessary?**

- This project will improve essential services for households and meet the growing demands of the region.
- It will ensure Southside area is connected to modern sewer infrastructure, ensuring increased flood resilience of the sewer network while reducing environmental impacts because of the use of aging septic systems and treatment plants.