

WATERFALL GULLY Wastewater System Upgrade Project

Background

This is the first of a series of newsletters to keep residents informed of the Waterfall Gully Wastewater System Upgrade Project.

The Waterfall Gully Wastewater System was the first public vacuum system in South Australia. The system comprises of:

- 63 property connections comprising local residents, light industrial, commercial properties and public toilets
- 30 fibreglass household collection pits servicing up to 7 connections each (each collection pit is fitted with a vacuum valve which is activated when the water in the pit reaches a specific level)
- approximately 2.5 kilometres of underground pipe
- a waste water pumping station

Over time, a number of safety and system reliability issues have emerged with the current system including:

- restricted operational access to household collection pits
- equipment blockages
- some of the pits being located in driveways and gardens and are difficult for maintenance workers to access safely
- materials and objects in the network causing system failure and posing a safety hazard

Given these issues, SA Water (system owner) and United Water (system manager) are looking to upgrade the current system or replace it to increase reliability and safety.

What's happened so far?

In order to identify a preferred option the following activities have been undertaken:

- inspection of every collection pit and completion of a site survey
- tests undertaken on the current system
- project documentation and concept plans prepared

What will happen next?

Anticipated key dates for the project are shown below although timing will depend on a number of factors including the length of time required by the successful contractor to undertake the design work and the construction methodology.

Further details of the timing and length of the construction works will be available as the project progresses and residents and stakeholders will be advised of the works program.

It is anticipated that the project will involve approximately 2-3 months of intense construction and 12 months to fully complete.

Activity	Anticipated Date
Submissions sought from contractors interested in undertaking the work	April 2009
Development Application to be lodged for approval with the Development Assessment Commission (DAC)	April / May 2009
Preferred option selected and the main contract to undertake the work awarded	August / September 2009
Assessment, preparation and preconstruction works undertaken	At least 2 months
Construction work starts	October / November 2010

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Project Brief/Overview

When the final option for upgrading the system is decided the contractor will be appointed. This contractor will also be responsible for finalising the construction methodology.

Initial assessments and site surveys undertaken to date would suggest however that the final option will include:

- upgrading or decommissioning of the current pump station
- new collection pits
- upgraded alarm system to provide multiple hours warning before an overflow occurs
- some new pipework
- decommissioning of the current pump station.

What does the project involve and how will it affect me?

During the construction period it is expected that there will be some disruption to residents living in Waterfall Gully Road including:

- trucks moving through the street delivering construction materials and removing surplus soil
- traffic management to ensure safety of the public and the construction workers
- replacement or installation of collection pits requiring an easement to be registered/ extinguished
- some construction noise from machinery
- temporary restrictions (dependent upon the scheme selected)
- potential trenching along parts of Waterfall Gully Road
- possible installation of electricity cubicles subject to selected option

Measures will be taken to minimise potential disruptions to residents. Residents will be advised of specific measures closer to the start of construction.

The pipeline and preferred pit locations are currently being determined and, as part of this process, endeavours are being made to avoid significant trees and other areas of sensitivity.

If we are required to undertake work on your property we will contact you well in advance of works commencing to discuss any access and easement arrangements.

Further information

As the project proceeds, we will provide the community with more detailed information including details of the preferred system and the potential construction impacts.

Information will be provided by way of:

- newsletters
- letters to households
- signage
- notices

If you have questions or require further information about the project:

- **phone** the SA Water Customer Contact Centre on 1800 812 362, or
- **email** waterfallgully@sawater.com.au

For information on this and other SA Water projects log on to www.sawater.com.au.