

To: NSW Department of Planning and Environment.

From: David Marshall

Date: 24-02-17

24a Chiltern Rd
Ingleside NS 2101
Ph 0488 068 750

Re Ingleside Land release – Sewer Pumping Station

I am very concerned about the location of the proposed sewer pumping station for the Ingleside land release. The sewer pumping station must not be located adjacent to the national park, in a fire zone and next to Cicada Glen Creek.

Sewer pumping stations are reported as overflowing on many occasions, with report of a major overflow occurring at Tahmoor as detailed in the below media release. Mechanical failure, bushfire or heavy rainfall can lead to failures and this will be disastrous to the Cicada Glen Creek that flows to McCarrs Creek and Pittwater.

90 thousand litres spilled from this reported failure with little that could be done to prevent contamination. The development must not proceed at North Ingleside that relies on this sewer pumping station.

Regards

David Marshall

Sydney Water fined \$15,000 for Tahmoor sewage overflow

Media release: 22 February 2017

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has issued Sydney Water with a fine of \$15,000 after 90,000 litres of raw sewage was discharged from a pumping station at Tahmoor, near Picton, into a local creek.

Sewage overflowed from the pumping station into the nearby Myrtle Creek in July 2016, as a result of a pump failing and the temporary backup pump not having the capacity to cope with the incoming sewage flow. The sewage overflow lasted approximately 11 hours.

EPA Acting Regional Director Metropolitan Mike Sharpin said while Sydney Water installed a second backup pump and arranged tankers to collect sewage from the pumping station, this was insufficient to stop a second smaller overflow occurring the next day.

“Sydney Water tried to minimise the impact of the overflow by damming and manually cleaning up the creek, but our monitoring results showed that Myrtle Creek was heavily impacted by the overflow,” Mr Sharpin said.

“While the environmental impacts were contained, the overflow itself was preventable.

“The backup pump and contingency actions were not enough to cope with the incoming sewage.

“Sydney Water’s Environment Protection Licence prohibits overflows from sewage pumping stations in dry weather, and on this occasion they weren’t compliant.”

Sydney Water has since undertaken clean up works to the satisfaction of the EPA and implemented strategies to reduce the risk of further overflows from this pumping station.

Penalty notices are one of a number of tools the EPA can use to achieve environmental compliance including formal warnings, official cautions, licence conditions, notices and directions and prosecutions. For more information about the EPA’s regulatory tools, see the EPA Compliance Policy <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/legislation/prosguid.htm>.