

Nillumbik's Community Sewerage Program



What is the Community Sewerage Program?

The Nillumbik Community Sewerage Program is a component of Yarra Valley Water's overall Community Sewerage Program. The Yarra Valley Water (YVW) Community Sewerage Program (CSP) is an ongoing \$400 million program aimed at minimising the environmental and health risks caused by unsewered properties across the YVW catchment by outdated or poorly maintained on-site wastewater systems. The CSP will provide selected properties in Melbourne's outer north and east with access to a range of new wastewater infrastructure.

As a result of many homes in Melbourne being built before sewerage was available, more than 14,000 properties in the outer northern and eastern suburbs are still using septic tank systems. Many of these septic tank systems do not meet current standards and can be a potential risk to public health, local waterways and the environment.

The CSP replaces YVW's previous Sewer Backlog Program. And aims to provide a range of flexible wastewater solutions to the properties included in the program. This does not always include a new reticulated sewerage connection as the default solution.

Under the CSP approach, YVW proposes to deliver services to identified properties within the 24 townships involved (across YVW's catchment) by 2033; whereas blanket sewerage of all remaining unsewered properties (under the previous Backlog Program) was not likely to be delivered until 2045, extending the risk of environment and health impacts from existing outdated and failing onsite systems.

The CSP is owned and managed by YVW, just as they own and manage their existing sewerage infrastructure and assets. However, Nillumbik Shire Council has an important role to play in advocating for the Nillumbik community through the on-going consultation and planning activities we engage in with YVW to maximise the CSP outcomes for the Nillumbik community.

What types of wastewater solutions are available under the CSP?

Of the four types of possible CSP wastewater solutions listed below, YVW will usually short-list the options

available after assessing the land capability of the area and consulting with the community and council (prior to project delivery). These four solution types consist of:

No on-site treatment, sewerage sent off-site

- **Gravity-fed sewer:** all property wastewater flows off-site via gravity through sewerage pipes to a large Treatment Plant.

OR

- **Pressure-fed sewer:** all property wastewater pumped off-site through sewerage pipes to a large Treatment Plant. This option requires a pumping storage tank to be installed on the property (in-ground).

Treat and disperse wastewater on-site

- **Upgraded on-site septic system:** all property wastewater still treated and dispersed within your property boundaries via a new or upgraded secondary treatment system.

Treat on-site, wastewater sent locally for irrigation e.g. at a reserve or oval

- **Cluster treatment and irrigation systems:** property wastewater is treated by on-site treatment system that pumps treated effluent off-site to storage/treatment tanks at a second local site where there is a demand for irrigation (e.g. a local reserve). The second local site receives wastewater from multiple properties.

Partially treat on-site, wastewater then sent off-site

- **Septic tank effluent pumping (STEP) system:** property wastewater is treated to a primary standard by an on-site septic tank before being pumped off-site via pressure sewer pipe to a treatment plant.
- **Septic tank effluent gravity (STEG) system:** property wastewater is treated to a primary standard by an on-site septic tank before being flowing off-site via gravity fed sewer pipe to a treatment plant.

If you have any questions about these potential options ask one of our session facilitators.

What Nillumbik townships have been included in the CSP?

The townships that have received new sewerage infrastructure, or will receive it under the current CSP framework are as follows:

CSP area	Township	Number of lots	Project dates
BA012	Eltham (North) / Research	180	Complete
BA004A/B/C	North Warrandyte	975	Complete
BA005	Eltham (South)	~300	2018-2019
CSA007	Hurstbridge / Wattle Glen / Diamond Creek	~83	2031-2032
CSA042	St Andrews	~121	2031-2032
CSA041	Panton Hill	~137	2031-2032
CSA040	Yarrambat	~39	2030-2031

To date, Eltham North, Research and North Warrandyte have been delivered, with Eltham South most recently having been in the design phase. YVW estimates the Eltham South sewerage project to commence toward the end of 2019.

Eltham North, Research and North Warrandyte were delivered under the old Backlog Program. However, Eltham South will be delivered under the new YVW Community Sewerage Program (CSP) framework.

The CSP townships of Diamond Creek, Hurstbridge, Wattle Glen, Yarrambat, Panton Hill and St Andrews have not yet received their new CSP sewerage infrastructure, as YVW are yet to implement these projects. It is important to note that within these Townships the properties identified for inclusion in the CSP all have estimated project delivery dates for around 2030/31/32 (see table above). These estimated project delivery dates are set by YVW and can be subject to change. YVW will begin active community engagement and communication closer to the project delivery dates in partnership with Council. Council will continue its ongoing advocacy program with YVW, which includes regular joint planning meetings.

CSP roles and responsibilities

Yarra Valley Water (YVW) is the local water authority responsible for supplying reticulated water and sewerage services to the Shire of Nillumbik. YVW owns, maintains and manages all of the reticulated water and sewerage assets contained within their asset network across their service area, of which Nillumbik is a part.

YVW works in partnership with local councils in planning and implementing appropriate sewerage infrastructure developments; determining which properties are unable to contain wastewater on-site and recommending priorities for the provision of sewerage services.

YVW are the key primary authority in setting the scope and direction of the extension of mains sewerage infrastructure across the Shire of Nillumbik through their continuing rollout of the Community Sewerage Program. State legislative requirements require consultation between YVW, local government and the community in the necessary development and planning processes for the CSP Townships and properties within Nillumbik.

Council's primary role with the CSP is to advocate on behalf of our community and assist YVW in the necessary planning required to maximise, as much as possible, the outcomes for our CSP Townships and properties.

Where or how do I apply for my property to be connected to sewer?

For residents with properties included in the CSP, applications to connect must be submitted online to Yarra Valley Water via their website.

Visit yvw.com.au and search 'community sewerage program.'

YVW will then provide instruction and advice on their connection process, costs and approximate time frames.

Residents can also contact YVW with any enquiries about connection or CSP related enquiries via email at communitysewerageplanning@yvw.com.au

Note: the costs and time frames will vary depending on whether a property is included in YVWs Community Sewerage Program.

How do I know if my property is part of the Community Sewerage Program?

YVW have provided Council with their current map of the investigation areas across the Nillumbik CSP Townships yet to receive sewerage connection. We can advise on what properties are currently included in the investigation areas and will be displaying these maps at the drop-in sessions for viewing.

However, it is best for our residents in the CSP townships yet to receive new infrastructure, to enquire with YVW directly. This is particularly the case, if you are after confirmation as to whether your property will be included in the CSP area and if it is likely to receive a sewerage connection as the wastewater solution; as this is not a question Council can answer (on behalf of YVW ten years prior to the estimated commencement of these CSP projects).

Residents can contact YVW with any enquiries about connection or CSP related enquiries via email at communitysewerageplanning@yvw.com.au

Residents can also access a summarised update on the progress of current YVW community sewerage projects at yvw.com.au and searching 'community sewerage program.'

This link only lists the CSP townships that have had or are currently having sewerage connections provided by YVW (e.g. for Nillumbik; North Warrandyte and Eltham South). It does not provide a complete listing of all CSP townships yet to receive new sewerage services to selected areas (refer to the listing on the previous page for Nillumbik townships in this category).

If you live in one of the above townships you should contact YVW with any enquiries about connection or the CSP via email at communitysewerageplanning@yvw.com.au or visit the YVW EasyAccess portal at yvw.com.au/help-advice/develop-build/developers/develop-and-build-applications

Residents with urgent enquiries can contact the YVW Community Sewerage Planning Team directly on 9872 2551. All other enquiries should be directed via email to communitysewerageplanning@yvw.com.au

