



Penshurst Adaptive Wastewater Project Trial and Monitoring Plan

Information Sheet - March 2023

We're trialling a wastewater management and water recycling system in Penshurst. Find out more about the project and how you can take part.

What's the project about?

The project is being undertaken by the Great South Coast Integrated Water Management Forum, Wannon Water, Southern Grampians Shire Council, and is supported by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) through the Integrated Water Management Program.

It is investigating a whole-of-town wastewater solution for Penshurst. As a first step, we've selected one part of town to trial a wastewater management and water recycling system. It will capture wastewater near the source, treat it and then re-use it on public open space.

Why do we need to monitor on properties?

The on-property monitoring program will allow us to determine the performance of the pilot project and its overall ability to meet project objectives of a safe and reliable sewer system.

The first step is to obtain data and information on the existing situation in Penshurst through a baseline monitoring program. It will also quantify any shortcomings relating to environmental, human health and community liveability. Once the wastewater management and recycling system is commissioned, we'll conduct a verification monitoring program. This will allow us to compare the results with the baseline monitoring and determine the benefits.

What and where will we be monitoring?

We'll be monitoring:

- Climate
- Existing on-site wastewater systems

- Stormwater
- Shallow groundwater
- Permanent groundwater
- Soil and receiving environments (including the wetland and spring).

We'll collect and test samples to check for wastewater impacts including water and wastewater volumes and nutrients, and human faecal indicator species.

We'll also be engaging with community members to record valuable feedback.

Monitoring equipment will be installed on publicly owned land and on private properties.

What could this mean for me?

We'll be contacting property owners to see if they're willing to allow their property to be monitored during the pilot project. The following equipment may be installed on properties that are part of the project:

- A flowmeter to monitor wastewater flows from their wastewater system (e.g. septic tank) to the land application area (e.g. trenches) or a data logger to monitor daily water use.
- A soil moisture probe and small station to monitor soil moisture below the land application area.
- One or two soil water samplers to monitor shallow groundwater quality.

We'll also need to drill some small bore holes (around 50 millimetres in diameter) and dig some narrow trenches for the soil moisture probe and station, and the soil water samplers. Flowmeters can be easily retro-fitted to existing wastewater lines with minimal site disturbance.

What could this mean for me?

We'll reinstate any disturbed soil and grass, including seeding areas where necessary.

Wannon Water or council representatives will take samples each month. This process should only take about one hour.

Images of the equipment and installation below are included as an example of the process.

Contact us

If you're interested or have any questions, please get in touch with Wannon Water to find out more.

Email: info@wannonwater.com.au

Post: Wannon Water, Po Box 1158, Warrnambool Victoria 3280

Phone: 1300 926 666

Soil moisture station



Bore water samplers (immediately following install)



Soil moisture probe and station installation



Smart meter attached to existing water meter



Removed soil moisture probe and station (same day)

