

SOM Special Elector's Meeting 12/8/2019

My name is Dwayne Scook and I would like to make comment for your consideration regarding the proposed sewage management supporting the motion "There is insufficient detail for review by community and Shire to endorse the Wastewater Treatment Plant as a concept therefore placing community and environment at risk."

What has been presented is only a concept, with little function or detail to make appropriate comment against, echoed by submissions from multiple Departments and concerned locals. This is not acceptable to either the community or the Shire. Given the critical nature of this issue, as far back as 2008, the Shire has recorded in meeting minutes on topic "The Shire has the ability through the approval role in terms of the revised LSIP to ensure that the final technical solution proposed is to the Shire's satisfaction prior to the endorsement of the LSIPs"

To commit to a concept would be to commit to the responsibilities laid out in the strategy, which without detail does not allow the Shire opportunity to provide adequate review or risk assessment. This is a forever endorsement.

Submissions from the DBCA and DWER have challenged the nutrient release and the management of treatment chemical content. The whole system is perched at the top of two water catchments, with the plant on a slope feeding a nearby water course. The soil has been classified as impermeable, and there will be a need to release the water, which is the responsibility of the Shire. The proponents have a revised stance as to having "no discharge" requirements and the shire will have to manage water release which raises the question of the water budget, how it is calculated and managed. This translates to any excess capacity having to be released by the Shire irrespective of soil saturation due to weather events or over irrigation.

The released waste water will move across the surface and down the catchments which includes bush land and private property. Any groundwater recharge that does infiltrate may affect surrounding bore water quality.

Will the surrounds cope with such issues as channelization, concentrating any contaminants or nutrients.

There is no comprehensive management of non nutrient contaminants which are easily flushed into the system.

There is no means to limit the consumer water use supplying the plant and no overflow mitigation.

The example sites do not reflect this site in combination of soil profile, topography, environmental sensitivities, capacity mitigation and demographic of supply.

As infrastructure deteriorates, how is any sewage leak in the network prevented from contaminating the storm water system. How is storage dam leakage prevented given the reliance on a plastic liner with a large volume of waste water under considerable pressure, which could seep for long periods entering the top of the catchment and extending in to adjacent water courses and their surrounding soils on public open space and private property.

Points of note from the WA DOH Guidelines for the Non-potable Uses of Recycled Water in Western Australia, include.

Section 4.2.3 Community consultation, “Proponents should undertake community involvement early in the planning stage, as part of a strategic and planned aspect of the recycling scheme”

Section 7.3 Agreements, including contingency measures and liability.

Section 5 Risk assessment and management

Many local people living the Hills Lifestyle, manage their own water supply and waste, this is not limited to the septic systems as the reasoning to produce this proposal.

In closing, environmental and local community health is of greatest concern, and hope this will initiate further consideration to reject this strategy due to the uncalculated risks an acceptance of concept will endorse.