



# SOUTHERN BEACHES ONSITE WASTEWATER & STORMWATER PLAN

## Community Q&A Session

5 December 2024

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### Attendance

Eight community members

Greg Robertson (Manager Health and Compliance) and Stacey Gadd (Manager Community Relations) Sorell Council

Joe Whitehead and Bill Cromer - Consultants

Mayor Janet Gatehouse, Councillor Melinda Reed and Councillor Micheal Larkins

### Overview of Plan

Greg Robertson provided background and why we are doing this work.

A lot of planning was done previously then Councils transferred responsibility for water and sewage to Southern Water/TasWater. These organisations have not justified progressing infrastructure into the Southern beaches area. The findings and associated recommendations will feed into further work Council undertake in the future of the Southern Beaches - namely a Structure Plan to guide the growth and development of the area.

### Consultants

Joe and Bill gave an overview of the field work they had conducted over the past three days. They indicated they'd seen evidence of intermittent issues with onsite systems and a lot of older systems, which was to be expected in an area such as this. They suggested that existing systems can become inappropriate as we move from older shacks to permanent dwellings.

Council and the community will need to work together to ensure systems are working as required for the benefit of public health and the environment.

There is no perfect solution – the Plan will be looking at the best practical solution for systems to do a better job and achieve better outcomes.

It appears there are minimal issues and they can be dealt with as they arise. The Plan will likely take a pragmatic approach to managing issues – improvements made where and when required.

### Questions from attendees

Greywater – Why can't we use greywater easily for our gardens as Councils on the mainland allow?

Greywater can be re-use, but the quality of untreated greywater is unsuitable for irrigation. CBOS has a guide for greywater re-use that specifies appropriate methods of greywater treatment and diversion.

Community Education – Not everyone knows how to operate their systems or even where it is. What can Council do to assist?

Council's records on older properties for septic systems isn't as good/thorough as newer properties so identifying its location is more difficult. The survey to date indicates there is some education to be done regarding maintenance of onsite systems. This will be incorporated into the Plan and rolled out through Council's regular communication channels – social media, Community News newsletter, E-News, Sorell Times newspaper, website etc.