



July 2025

Public exhibition of Draft Onsite Wastewater Management Plan: Community Engagement Report



Project background

Onsite wastewater management systems (OWMS) are essential in areas that are not yet connected to a sewerage system. Under Victorian legislations, all Councils with OWMS in their municipality must develop and implement a management plan.

The purpose of the OWMP is to:

- Protect and improve public health, the environment and protect local amenity by improving wastewater management within the un-sewered areas of the municipality
- To identify and prioritise the key environmental and public health risks posed by onsite wastewater issues in the municipality and implement actions to reduce the risks
- Assist with long-term planning and development strategies for onsite wastewater system management.
- Provide a framework for making decisions about individual installations and provide policy for those decisions

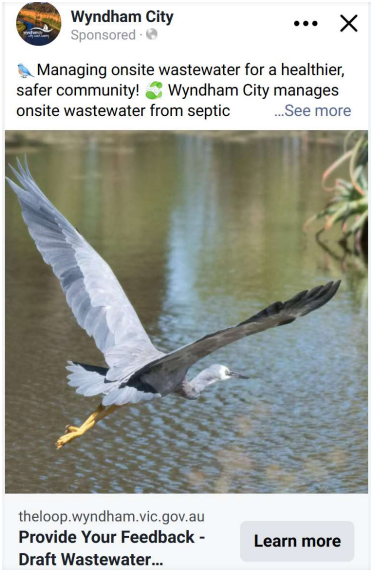
Public exhibition of the Draft Onsite Wastewater Management Plan was from 26 March – 27 April. It is the final phase of the consultation process designed as a check-in for people who have already contributed or have a particular interest in this strategic document to make it is clear and that we have not missed anything.

The engagement sought a rating of the draft plan from participants. It offered an opportunity for any other feedback in a free text element in the survey.

Methodology

The below table outlines the various methods and techniques used to engage with the community and the activities undertaken to promote the engagement.

Community engagement activities / tools	
Method / technique	Stakeholders engaged
Project page on The Loop	582 page views 459 total visitors to the page
Online survey	7 contributions

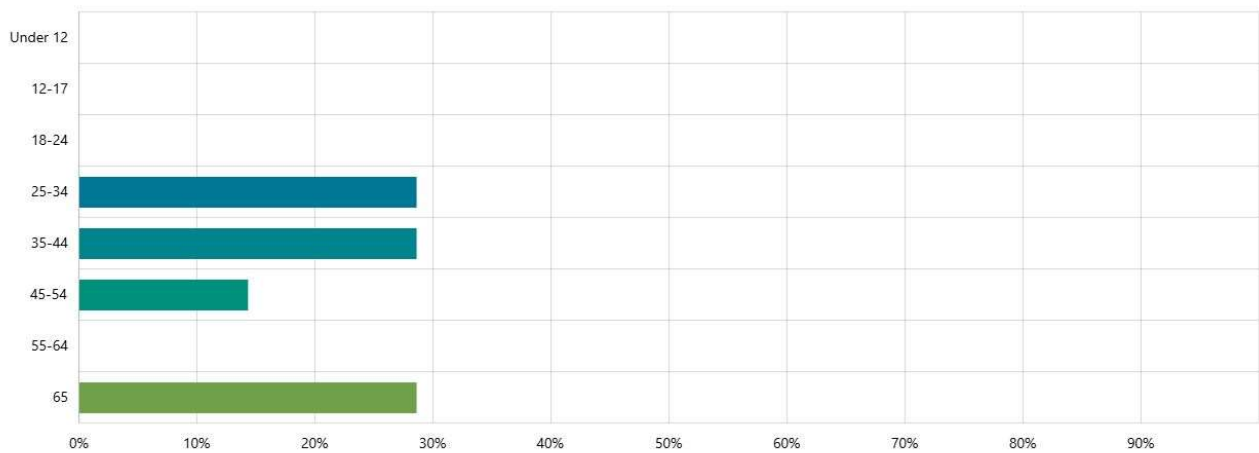
Communications / marketing activities	
Method / technique	Details
Online promotion (Facebook - advertising)	Advertisement was run twice (sponsored and organic) Ad:  Reach: 28,466 Engagements: 716 Click through to website: 622

Communications / marketing activities

	Organic:  Wyndham City Published by Sprout Social April 1 at 9:26 AM · 🌐 Wyndham City manages onsite wastewater from septic tanks and treatment systems to protect public health, the environment, and our local waterways. This work is guided by an Onsite Wastewater Management Plan, which is being updated for 2025-30 and feedback is invited. Have your say by 27 April at: https://theloop.wyndham.vic.gov.au/draft-onsite... Reach: 1,472 Engagements: 14 Click through to website: 13
Emails	Email sent on 28/03/2025 to 1,811 registered users on The Loop notifying them of new project. Email sent on 28/03/2025 to 7,573 Loop newsletter subscribers with a promotion of the engagement opportunity. Email sent on 3/04/2025 to 1,692 People's Advisory Panel members with a promotion of the engagement opportunity. Email sent to specific stakeholder group on 27 March and 23 April advising of project and inviting their feedback
Star Weekly	Promotion published 3/4/2025 Circulation 279 000 https://wyndham.starweekly.com.au/news/have-your-say-on-wastewater-treatment/

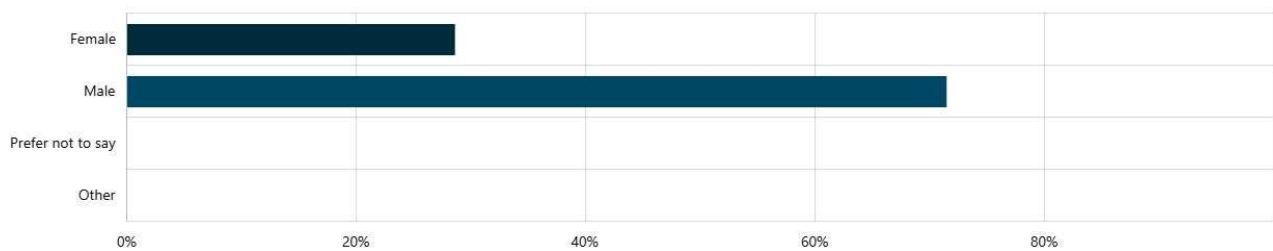
Who we heard from

Age group



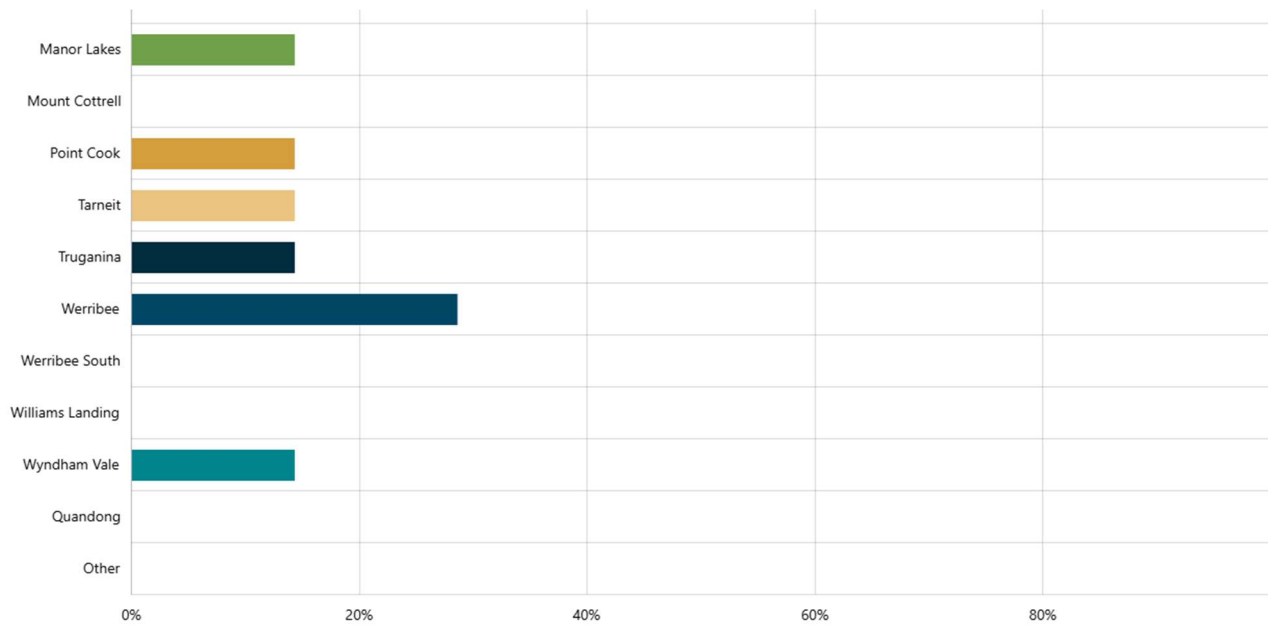
Answer Choices	Percent	Count
25-34	28.57%	2
35-44	28.57%	2
45-54	14.25%	1
55-64	0%	0
65	28.57%	2
Total	100.00%	7

Gender



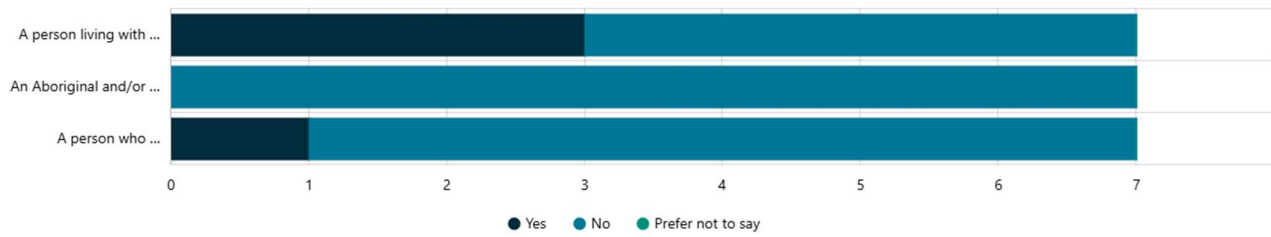
Answer Choices	Percent	Count
Female	28.57%	2
Male	71.43%	5
Prefer not to say	0%	0
Other	0%	0
Total	100.00%	7

Location



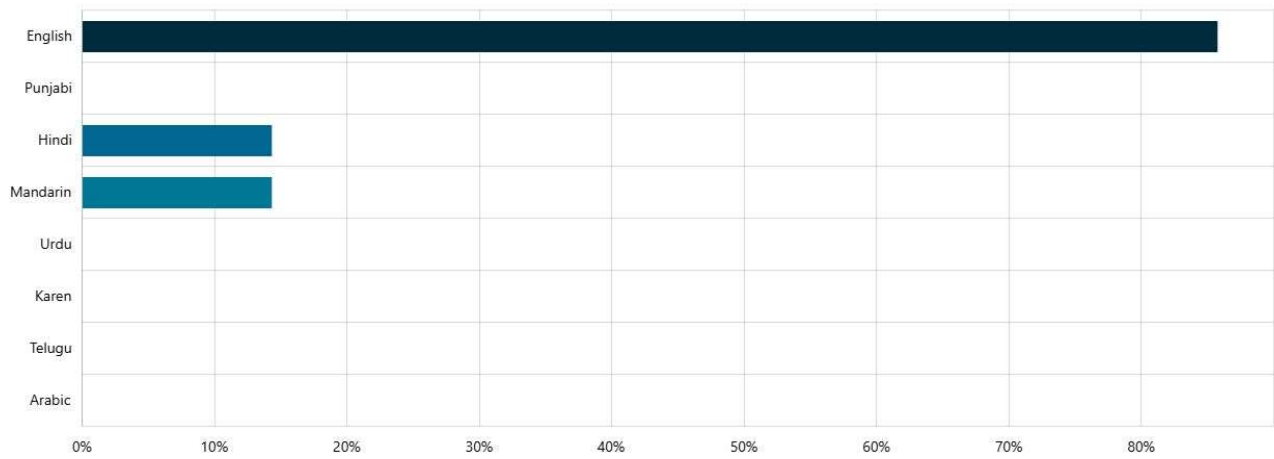
Answer Choices	Percent	Count
Manor Lakes	14.29%	1
Point Cook	14.29%	1
Tarneit	14.29%	1
Truganina	14.29%	1
Werribee	28.57%	2
Wyndham Vale	14.29%	1
Total	100.00%	7

Which of the following describes you?



Answer choices	Yes %	Yes count	No %	No count	Prefer not to say %	Prefer not to say count
A person living with disability and/or someone caring for a person living with disability	42.86%	3	57.14%	4	0%	0
An Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person	0%	0	100%	7	0%	0
A person who identifies as LGBTQIA	14.27%	1	85.71%	6	0%	0

What language/s do you speak at home?



Answer Choices	Percent	Count
English	85.71%	6
Punjabi	0%	0
Hindi	14.29%	1
Mandarin	14.29%	1
Urdu	0%	0
Karen	0%	0
Telugu	0%	0
Arabic	0%	0
Other	0%	0
Total	100.00%	7

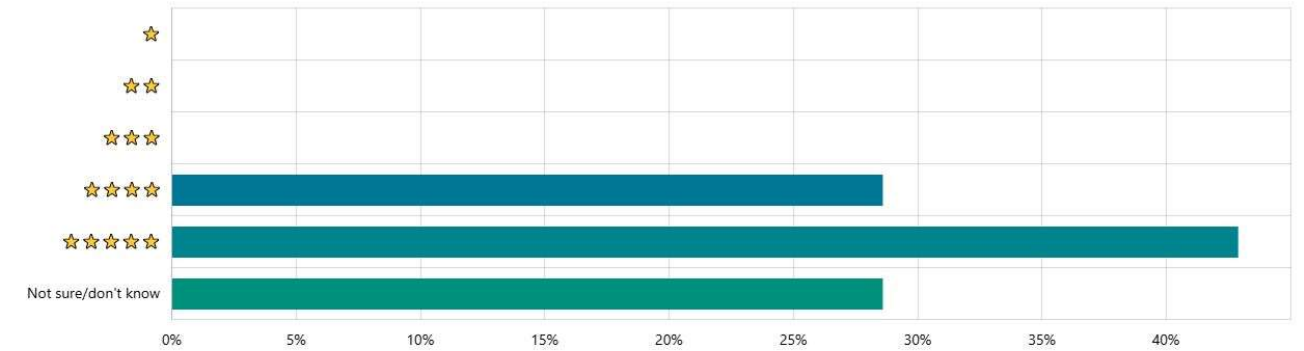
Analysis of feedback

Of the 7 responses received, the average star rating given was 4.6 out of 5. There were no written comments that are directly relevant to this engagement. See the results of all feedback received below.

Direct stakeholder engagement:

Stakeholder	Feedback	Action
Melbourne Water	No direct comments	
Southern Rural Water	Clarity on stormwater and irrigation channel requirements in Werribee South.	Wording in plan updated
Greater Western Water	Comments relate to enforcement of connection and when GWW would be required to step in to build backlog schemes. These points to be discussed further down the line. Otherwise GWW has reviewed Council's draft OWMP and has no major issues or concerns with the document. GWW has existing sewerage infrastructure in the vicinity of all unsewered areas with the exception of remote rural dwellings and the township of Little River. This existing infrastructure has adequate hydraulic capacity to service all unsewered properties within the urban area. Once an unsewered urban lot/area has been formally identified by Council and/or EPA as requiring reticulated sewerage, GWW can commence the process for programming the delivery of the necessary works.	Collaboration with GWW required once plan in place

Q1: Overall, how do you rate the Draft Onsite Wastewater Management Plan 2025-30??



Answer Choices	Percent	Count
★	0%	0
★★	0%	0
★★★	0%	0
★★★★	28.57%	2
★★★★★	42.86%	3
Not sure / Don't know	28.57%	2
Total	100%	7
Average		4.6

Q2: Do you have any further comments?

Comments received below did not require Council response or follow up.

Comments received
Hi when will the harpley lake open next to the ison rd bridge both sides there are still works going on whats the time frame
Looks good and scientific. But I don't completely understand it all. I'm not clear what the council is responsible for versus greater western water. Probably the goal of education and awareness would be good to help residents understand rights and responsibilities. I hope the environment and animals are being protected under this as our nature parks are nice

Next steps

The final Policy will be presented to Council on 22 July 2025 and subject to endorsement at this meeting, will commence 23 July 2025.

If you have any further questions regarding this project or this report, please email engagement@wyndham.vic.gov.au