

Cardwell Sewerage Network Consultation



Questions & answers

Q1. Is Council building a sewerage network in Cardwell?

No. No decision has been made to build a sewerage network in Cardwell.

This consultation is about understanding whether the community supports Council undertaking further investigations into a potential future sewerage network. Community feedback will help inform any future decisions and next steps.

Q2. Why is Council consulting the community now?

The completion of the sewerage treatment plant servicing Port Hinchinbrook has created an opportunity to explore whether a future sewerage network for Cardwell may be possible.

Subject to future planning, technical investigations and funding, the treatment plant could potentially be upgraded to support a future sewerage network for Cardwell.

Council is seeking feedback now to understand whether the community supports further planning and investigations and what factors are most important to residents, ratepayers and businesses.

Q3. Why is a sewerage network being considered?

Most properties in Cardwell currently rely on septic tanks or other on-site wastewater systems.

A future sewerage network could support Cardwell's long-term growth, housing, tourism and infrastructure needs while providing an alternative wastewater management option for the township.

Council is seeking community feedback to understand whether there is support for further investigation of this opportunity.

Q4. If we were to connect to a sewerage network, would my rates or service charges increase?

If a future sewerage network were to proceed, connected Cardwell properties would be expected to pay an annual sewerage charge similar to properties connected to sewerage services in Tully, Mission Beach and Innisfail.

Preliminary estimates indicate this charge could be approximately \$1,165 per year per connected property, or around \$568 per half-year rates notice. For properties with multiple toilet connections, such as hotels, motels, caravan parks and some commercial businesses, additional service charges may apply. Current estimates indicate an additional charge of approximately \$950 per toilet connection.

These figures are indicative only and remain subject to further investigation, detailed design, funding outcomes and future Council decisions.

For Port Hinchinbrook properties, expanding the sewerage scheme to include additional connections may help spread operating costs across a larger customer base. Subject to future design, funding arrangements, connection numbers and Council decisions, this may assist in reducing sewerage charges over time.

Q5. Will everyone be required to connect?

No decisions have been made regarding future connection requirements.

If a sewerage network were ever pursued, connection arrangements, timing, and requirements would be considered as part of future planning and consultation.

Q6. What would happen to my existing septic system?

No decisions have been made regarding how existing septic systems would be managed.

Should a sewerage network be pursued in the future, Council would work with property owners to provide information about connection requirements and any changes to existing wastewater systems.

Q7. How would a future sewerage network be funded?

No funding arrangements have been determined and no decision has been made to proceed with a sewerage network.

This consultation is being undertaken to understand whether there is community support for further planning and investigations. If pursued in the future, a project of this scale would require significant investment and substantial funding support from the Queensland and Australian Governments. Any funding model would be considered as part of future planning and Council decision-making.

Q8. Would the network be built all at once?

It is unlikely a project of this scale would all be built at the same time.

If pursued in the future, major scale of the project would mean it would be progressed in stages over time, depending on funding availability, community support and project priorities.

Q9. Does the existing treatment plant have enough capacity to service Cardwell?

The recently completed treatment plant currently services Port Hinchinbrook. Subject to future planning, technical investigations and funding, the plant could potentially be upgraded to support a future sewerage network for Cardwell. No decision has been made and further investigations would be required before any future network could be considered.

Q10. How to I share my feedback?

Community members can:

- complete the online survey via Council's Your Say page:
yoursay.cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au/cardwell-sewerage-network-consultation
- complete a paper survey available at the Cardwell Library
- stay tuned to Council's communication channels for upcoming face-to-face opportunities.

Consultation closes on Sunday, 19 July 2026

For more information:



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