

Refresh Vaucluse and Diamond Bay



Cleaning our blue backyard together

Below the cliffs of Vaucluse and Diamond Bay, untreated wastewater flows directly into the ocean. It's time for change and we're continuing to work to ensure this iconic area of Sydney gets the blue backyard it deserves.

We are building a new pump station at Parsley Bay and supporting infrastructure which will redirect untreated wastewater away from one of three of Sydney's last remaining outfalls in Vaucluse and transfer it to the Bondi treatment plant. We're also investigating upgrades to our network to redirect flows from the remaining two outfalls at Diamond Bay to the Bondi treatment plant.

This project will improve the coastal water quality and help protect the health of marine ecology by removing untreated wastewater from the ocean.

What we've done so far

Before deciding on the solution to build a pump station at Parsley Bay and the Eastern Reserve area, we looked at several options to capture wastewater from the Watsons Bay and Vaucluse areas and divert it away from the ocean outfalls. These options included building two new treatment plants in the area as well as the supporting pipe infrastructure. We also looked at building an entirely new three metre diameter wastewater network from Vaucluse to the Bondi treatment plant. We even looked at transferring wastewater from Vaucluse and Diamond Bay to the Bondi and North Head treatment plants via a sea route.

When compared to the solution, these options were not progressed as they:

- involve the construction of around four kilometres of additional three metre diameter pipes in complex residential or ocean environments
- include more infrastructure such as deep maintenance and vent shafts in residential areas and in roads
- require more property acquisition and easements to build and maintain the infrastructure
- have substantially higher construction and operating costs, resulting in higher customer bills
- have substantially more environmental and community impacts over a longer period than the approved option.

To learn more about the project visit www.sydneywatertalk.com.au/vauclusediamondbay and view the Review of Environmental Factors and Decision Report.

What's happening at Parsley Bay?

Two gravity wastewater pipes currently capture wastewater from the Vaucluse and Watsons Bay areas. These two pipes meet at Parsley Bay and a third wastewater pipe then carries the untreated flows from Parsley Bay into the ocean via the outfall at Vaucluse.

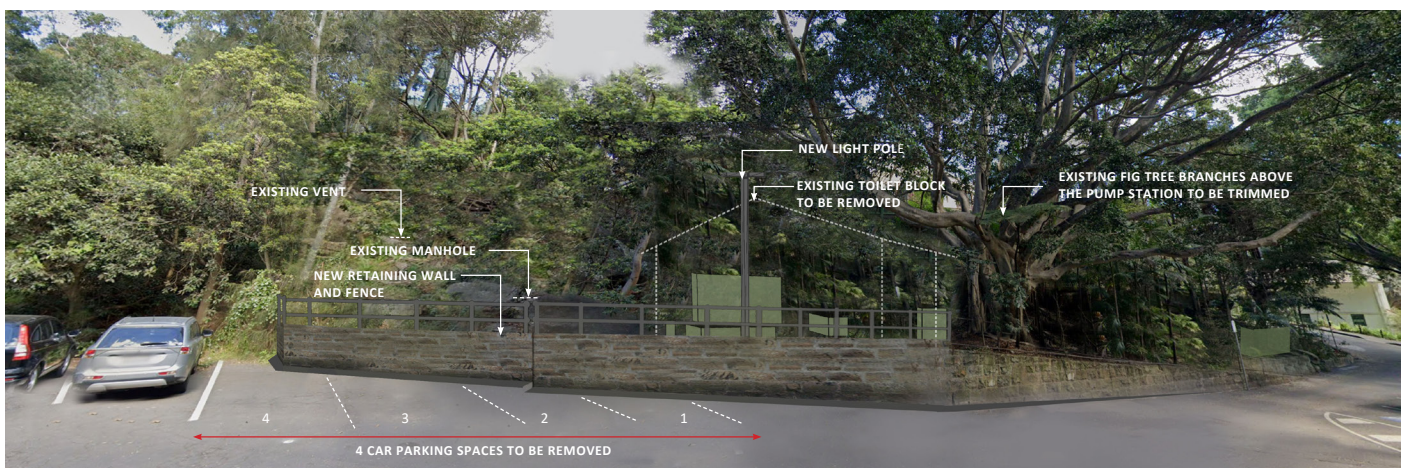
A new pump station and supporting infrastructure will be constructed at Parsley Bay where the existing pipes meet which will allow all wastewater from the Vaucluse and Watsons Bay area to be captured and pumped (largely via the existing pipe network) to the Bondi treatment plant.

What we heard

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to provide feedback or visited our in-person and online community sessions over the last few years as we consulted on the early designs.

Feedback from the community and stakeholders including Woollahra and Waverley Councils have helped us to refine the pump station design, further reducing impacts to the environment and the community. We are now able to fit the footprint of the pump station within the existing amenity block and move it away from the rockface further into the carpark. The majority of the pump station will also be underground. This modification, along with other design and construction methodology changes has reduced vegetation clearance across the project by around 80%.

Feedback has also resulted in further flora and fauna assessments which is discussed in the Decision Report.



What other options were considered for the Parsley Bay pump station?

We looked at alternative locations for the pump station including the surrounding area, but with limited land available and narrow streets, safe construction, operation and maintenance of the station could not occur.

If the pump station was moved to another location, similar infrastructure would still be needed at Parsley Bay (including pipes underneath the creek and wastewater chambers) to capture and divert wastewater from the surrounding area, resulting in similar environmental impacts. This infrastructure would have a similar footprint to the pump station solution, however additional pipes, multiple maintenance shafts in residential properties and roads, vent shafts, and another pump station would still be required in another location, resulting in greater impacts to the community and the environment.

Providing the pump station at Parsley Bay, where the existing pipes meet, will allow all wastewater from the Vaucluse and Watsons Bay area to be captured and pumped (largely via the existing pipe network) to the Bondi treatment plant.

We understand that Parsley Bay is a family friendly park and beach that is well-loved



by the community, and we are committed to managing potential impacts during the construction and operation of the pump station effectively. We will use best-practice environmental management to ensure our work does not impact the creek or marine area and minimises impacts on the environment and the community.

We will continue to keep the community informed via regular updates on our website, newsletters via email and in your mailbox, and regular drop-in sessions at the Parsley Bay reserve.

Did you know

- To minimise impacts on the surrounding environment the pump station at Parsley Bay will be built in the location of the existing amenity block, mostly underground. We will look at urban design finishes to blend the pump station into the surrounding environment as much as possible.
- In consultation with Woollahra Council, we will build a new and improved toilet and shower block on the ground floor of the existing Caretaker's Cottage.
- The footprint of the pump station has been modified, reducing vegetation clearing to around 17 trees (a mix of juvenile and mature trees). We will look at ways to further reduce the number of trees and plants impacted by the project.
- We will work with Woollahra Council and the local Bushcare group to plant trees and shrubs to replace and offset the vegetation impacted, and to rehabilitate the area.
- The fig tree will remain, with sections of the tree trimmed to allow work to be completed safely.
- No work will be undertaken within the marine area of Parsley Bay and measures will be in place to ensure our work does not impact it.
- For the safety of the community and our workers, the car park at Parsley Bay will be closed during construction. Access to the reserve and beach will be maintained via the surrounding street network.
- The new pipe under the creek will be installed underground by using trenchless construction methods to avoid impacts to the creek.
- We will undertake further environmental assessments if the design or construction methodology changes significantly.



Proposed SW site office and laydown area

Eastern Reserve and Diamond Bay

In our last newsletter, we advised we would be revisiting the design and location of the pump station infrastructure to divert the two Diamond Bay outfalls. We aim to have the design completed by the end of this year and will provide an update to the community when this work has been completed.

Next steps

We are in the process of getting a delivery partner on board who will prepare management plans to deliver the project safely while minimising impacts on the environment and the community. Construction is anticipated to start in early 2024.

Once construction starts, our teams will need a site office and storage area close to the construction sites. To minimise the impact on public spaces, we will use the Sydney Water owned land located at Dudley Page Reservoir in Dover Heights to install temporary office spaces and amenities for our project and maintenance team. Site preparation work has been completed and we will notify the community once we have a contractor on board and are ready to set up the site office.

Sydney Water’s Maintenance and Networks teams will also use the site as part of the ongoing operation and maintenance of the reservoir.



Refresh Vaucluse and Diamond Bay project map

Keep in touch

We are committed to keeping the community informed throughout the life of the project via regular newsletters, community drop in sessions and updates to the website. If you have any questions or would like to talk to the project team our community engagement team can be contacted via:

Call 1800 641 349

Email vauclusediamondbay@sydneywater.com.au

Scan the QR code for our project website or to subscribe to email updates visit: vauclusediamondbay@sydneywater.com.au

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