

Beachport CWMS

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Beachport CWMS?

The Beachport Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS) is a modern, full sewer system that takes waste and waste water. The Beachport CWMS is more sophisticated than the septic tank runoff schemes in Southend, Penola and Kalangadoo, which only accept liquids.

The Beachport CWMS has been operating since 30 May 2014.

Why is there a sewer system in Beachport?

The sewer system reduces risks to human health by ensuring that drinking water and recreational water sources are not polluted with bacteria, nitrates and phosphorus. The system also prevents pollution of surface water such as creeks, waterways and drains, as well as groundwater, which is quite shallow in Beachport.

Septic tank disposal systems are only appropriate for large properties and low density housing, so the sewer system also allows for future development in the township.

Why do I need to connect to the Beachport CWMS?

Council resolved to install a sewer system for Beachport. Following consultation with the community. All property owners other than aerobic systems are required to connect to the Beachport CWMS.

Property owners have been able to connect since May 2014. All property owners have been given up to 2 years to arrange a connection to the sewer scheme. During this period, Council will not be charging a fee for applications to connect existing septic or aerobic systems to the sewer. Applications received after 30 June 2016 will incur an application fee and connection fee. Currently the fees are \$214 for an application and \$2,800 per connection.

Who can connect my property to the system?

Only a licenced plumber can connect your property to the Beachport CWMS. A licenced contractor must also be used to pump out your existing septic or aerobic tank. Council has provided information to local plumbers and has simplified the process for existing dwellings.

How do I connect an existing dwelling to the Beachport CWMS?

1. Engage a licenced plumber to design your connection.
2. Complete an application for "On-site Wastewater Works Approval" available from Council's website or by phoning (08) 8733 0900.
3. The application can be submitted by the property owner or the plumber.
4. Plumber completes connection works including decommissioning of septic tank.
5. Within 28 days on completing on-site works, the plumber must submit to Council a Certificate of Compliance, as constructed plumbing plan and record of septic tank pump out
6. Council will then issue a Wastewater System Approval.

NOTE: This process only applies to existing dwellings. For all new dwellings or additions to a dwelling waste water system approval is required from Council before works are commenced.

What is the cost of connecting to the Beachport CWMS?

Property owners are responsible for the cost of a licenced plumber to install a new connection and decommission the existing septic or aerobic tank. For connections prior to 30 June 2016, Council will not be charging a fee for application or connection. Applications received after 30 June 2016 will incur an application fee and connection fee. Currently the fees are \$214 for an application and \$2,800 per connection.

Who pays for the connection to the Beachport CWMS?

Property owners are responsible for all plumbing associated costs for connection to the Beachport CWMS.

What happens if I don't connect?

All property owners are required to connect to the Beachport CWMS. Applications received after 30 June 2016 will incur an application fee and connection fee. Currently the fees are \$214 for an application and \$2,800 per connection.

Aerobic systems

Am I required to connect?

Dwellings with an existing aerobic wastewater system installed prior to 26 March 2008 will not be required to connect to the sewer system until the aerobic system is unserviceable or requires replacement.

Quarterly maintenance reports will continue to be required for aerobic systems to ensure the unit is working.

Am I required to pay the annual CWMS fee?

Properties with a functioning aerobic system installed prior to 26 March 2008 are not required to pay the annual CWMS fee until their property is connected to the sewer. All other property owners must pay the annual CWMS fee on their rates notice.

Can I choose to connect?

Property owners with an aerobic system may choose to connect to the sewer before 30 June 2016 and be exempt from an application fee and connection fee. Once an application has been received by Council, the annual CWMS fee will be shown on your Council rates notice.

Applications for connection to replace an aerobic system after 30 June 2016 will be required to pay an application fee and connection fee when the aerobic system is unserviceable or requires replacement. Currently the fees are \$214 for an application and \$2,800 per connection.

Further enquiries can be made by phoning (08) 9733 0901 or email engineering@wattlerange.sa.gov.au

