

Rosedale Sewerage Plan:

David Palmer has been lobbying the Office of the Hon. Andrew Constance, MP, Member for Bega, for a meeting with the Rosedale Association Inc to discuss the sewerage issues facing Rosedale. A briefing document (see below) has been forwarded to his office, with a request for a meeting to be attended by David Palmer and David Boardman.

ROSEDALE SEWERAGE PLAN

“Town Water In: Necessitates Town Water Out!

Purpose:

The need for sewerage works for the village of Rosedale (North and South) is now urgent. The impact on the environment and residents is no longer sustainable. Town water was put on to Rosedale in the early 1970s and in order for the balance to be preserved the used town water needs to be returned for treatment at the Public Works at nearby Tomakin. With a likely one-time population of 600+ at peak holiday times the reliance on absorption trenches is no longer a viable option. Others relying on weekly or monthly pump-outs are primitive by today's community standards. The Rosedale Association, on behalf of all ratepayers, urgently request the NSW State Government and the Eurobodalla Shire enter into meaningful discussions aimed at expediting the Rosedale sewerage plan, construction and operations. The Rosedale Association assumes the Guerilla Bay residents are equally supportive of this much-needed reform (but cannot speak on their behalf).

Background:

In the early 1970s town water was laid on to the village of Rosedale. By 2003 plans were well advanced with the Eurobodalla Shire to commence the excavation and construction of the sewerage plan. At that time the NSW Government provided a 75% subsidy to the Shire. By 2003 it had similarly determined that Guerilla Bay and Rosedale were amongst eight shire villages that required sewerage as a high priority.

By 2006 the State Government had reduced the assistance to 50% but the Shire funded a \$426,000 preconstruction feasibility study which ratepayers part funded through a \$200 levy payable twice over two years. By September 2006 the State Government scrapped the assistance entirely due to the Global Financial Crisis (GFC).

Six years on and with the GFC allegedly behind us the need for action and the reinstatement of the 75% assistance is critical. Some residents with recent alterations pump the effluent out at a frequency determined by the size of their tank. Others who have original cottages rely on their absorption trenches.

The cottages in proximity to Saltwater Creek will attest to effluent present in the waterway; however, this is a whole-of-community issue facing all residents and houses. A whole-of-Rosedale solution is sought.

Coliforms and other pathogens are routinely recorded at above safe levels. The many children that frequent Rosedale throughout the year, and particularly at holiday times, necessitate the need for a clean creek, clean lagoon and overall a clean environment.

In 2006 the Rosedale ratepayers willingly accepted the need for a \$200 annual levy to help fund the construction plan and study. The ratepayers equally accept the Shire-wide sewerage levy of \$617 payable annually will apply post construction. No other costs other than related for maceration is envisaged.

The 2006 study indicated the total cost to local and State Government in the order of \$5.3 million. No doubt that figure will today be closer to \$7 million and climbing. We urgently seek a resolution with the State Government re-instating the 75% assistance measure.

We are advised by Council that they are in support and will continue to lobby State Government for a resolution. Financial provisions for 2014-2016 have been indicated – but this delay only makes an untenable situation worse.

The Tomakin sewerage treatment plant is less than three kilometres away (one kilometre in the case of Guerilla Bay) and is currently, as advised, operating below capacity.

All ratepayers care for the environment and healthy soils and water systems – that's why we came to Rosedale – so now is the time for a progressive policy decision and reinstate the 75% State assistance and make the Rosedale (and Guerilla Bay) sewerage plan a priority.

The Rosedale Association Inc
September. 2012.