

LOWOOD-FERNVALE SEWER UPGRADE

May 2021

Project Status

The upgrade to the Lowood and Fernvale sewerage system has progressed with construction on schedule for completion in mid-2021. The system will be fully operational by the end of 2021, including the decommissioning of assets no longer in service.

Currently, the treatment plants are processing 2.4 million litres of wastewater each day. Once complete, the system will have the capacity to treat up to 9 million litres of wastewater every day from homes and businesses in Lowood and Fernvale.

Construction includes:

- Lowood Sewage Treatment Plant - located on Forest Hill Fernvale Road.
Status – Completion mid-2021.
- Ferny Gully Pump Station (PS) - will pump all sewage from Fernvale to the new Lowood STP.
Status - Complete.
- Lowood Pump Station (PS) - will pump all sewage from Lowood to the new STP.
Status – Completion mid-2021.
- Fernvale sewer rising main. Status – Complete.
- Lowood sewer rising main. Status - Complete.
- Decommissioning of assets at Lowood and Fernvale – Commencement mid-2021



Image – Aerial view of Lowood STP (April 2021).

What's happening now?

As the treatment plant and pump stations are approaching completion of construction, commissioning of the assets will be the next stage of the works. Commissioning, including pre-commissioning with clean water, involves a range of testing activities that need to be conducted by commissioning engineers and contractors to ensure that everything has been built to function as intended. This involves inspecting and testing every component and operational procedure of the infrastructure so that any issues identified can be immediately rectified.

To ensure the treatment plant operates within the set standards, the flows from the existing treatment plants will be diverted to the new treatment plant at a controlled rate.

How long will this take?

The commissioning process is expected to take three months – one month for clean water pre-commissioning, one month for process commissioning, and an additional month for performance proving.

The end of the commissioning phase should result in the plant operating within treatment targets and running at optimum conditions.

What are the impacts of commissioning on the community?

- As construction approaches completion, there will be less vehicle movement at the sites.
- The treatment plant and pump stations will shortly be running at 10 hours per day during business hours. No additional noise or traffic interruptions are expected.
- All work on site will be conducted between the hours of 6am- 4pm, and we will work to ensure that any community impacts will be kept to a minimum.
- The Brisbane Valley Trail will not be impacted by the commissioning phase.

We appreciate your understanding while we work to build this critical infrastructure for the region.

For more information:

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- 📘 Join our community FB page at urbanu.com.au/lowoodfernvale