

Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program

Connecting to a sewerage scheme

Property owners connecting to sewerage services under the Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program are helping to minimise public health and environment risks.

They save on their share of scheme costs because of a “capped” payment arrangement.

A property owner can pay \$800 upfront or \$80 a year over 20 years. This is the same financial arrangement as the Government’s previous scheme, the New Town Sewerage Initiative.

The other costs for a property owner are connecting to the scheme and any plumbing modifications that may be required in their house. These costs are usually between \$2,500 and \$5,000.

Hardship relief is available.

Maximising benefits

A scheme where all householders connect quickly will be more effective than a scheme where only a small part of the community connects.

Water authorities aim to connect every property to a new scheme.

But connection is not compulsory unless a property represents an environment or public health risk.

In this case, the Environment Protection Authority, the Department of Human Services or the council can ask the water authority installing the scheme to connect the property.

Property owners usually connect willingly to new water and sewerage schemes because of the many benefits

Introducing new water and sewerage services because of health and environmental issues often improves living standards and can be a comfort to vulnerable citizens such as the elderly.

In addition, property owners connecting to scheme no longer have blocked septic tanks to repair and no need to boil water.

Water and sewer connections can also return the property owner’s investment by improving the value of a house.

Connection can also allow the property owner to subdivide, if it is a large block and council approves the subdivision.