



Taking
control
of the
CWMS

For
the
Future

South
Australian
Labor



Acknowledgment of Country.

We acknowledge and respect the Traditional Custodians whose ancestral lands we live and work upon and we pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge and respect their deep spiritual connection and the relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to Country. We also pay our respects to the cultural authority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their nations in South Australia, as well as those across Australia.

Labor's plan for your

CWMS household

- ✓ From 1 July 2022, all residents on the Tea Tree Gully CWMS will be an SA Water customer for their sewerage services.
- ✓ From 1 July 2022, all residents in the City of Tea Tree Gully will only pay SA Water sewerage rates, and not CWMS service charges.
- ✓ **This will provide immediate savings to the average household of hundreds of dollars per year.**
- ✓ Residents will not pay remediation costs.
- ✓ Labor will create a dedicated customer service unit to provide information to residents.

For too long, thousands of residents in the North East have been living with an outdated septic tank system. The system costs too much, is prone to breakdowns and spillages, and residents are bearing the costs of repairs and maintenance. The Liberal plan to dismantle the system is vague, inadequately funded, and inequitable.

Labor believes the state government should be providing these utilities, not local government.

Labor has a comprehensive solution that will convert your home to the SA Water sewerage network at no cost to you.



Peter Malinauskas MP
SA Labor Leader



Our concerns with the Liberals' policy

Uncertainty of funding

On 3 June 2020, Labor announced a \$92 million plan to scrap the Tea Tree Gully Community wastewater Management System (CWMS) and connect residents to the SA Water sewerage network. This cost was based on data provided by the City of Tea Tree Gully.

But on 10 June 2020, the Liberals rushed out their policy, making a \$65 million funding commitment for only half the houses. There have been mixed messages from the minister about whether the City of Tea Tree Gully will be required to contribute to fund the transfer of the remaining houses.

This lack of clarity about whether the Liberal government will fully fund the remaining houses to be moved over to the SA Water sewerage creates uncertainty. This uncertainty means those households could experience big delays before their upgrades happen. This comes at a cost to residents living on CWMS:

- ▶ For future planning of upgrades or renovations to the house and property; and
- ▶ A potential impact on housing prices.

Ongoing maintenance costs of the system

Under the Liberals' plan, CWMS households will be converted to the SA Water sewerage network, leaving the City of Tea Tree Gully with a declining user-base over time. The council will still maintain the CWMS system for remaining households.

The council will have to pay for this maintenance somehow. If the council doesn't raise rates, reduce services, or accumulate more debt, its only option will be to directly charge the remaining customer base through an increasing service charge.

As a result, households that are last to upgrade will be hit the worst; They will **wait years to be upgraded while experiencing ever-increasing fees to cover the system**. This is clearly an unfair situation.



"Elected members believe SA Water should take responsibility for the CWMS from "day one of any formal agreement" and it requests a "formal offer". However, Minister Speirs told The Messenger in a statement the government would not be providing an offer for the transition and it expected council to contribute."

Tea Tree Gully Council worried \$65m for septic system upgrade would be 'insufficient', 19 March 2021, The Messenger

"There is a risk that there will be increases to the CWMS service charge that will adversely affect CWMS customers. As more CWMS customers are transitioned to SA Water, there will be an increasing financial burden on remaining CWMS customers."

Risks identified from the CTTG's response to SA Water's Sustainable Transition Plan, dated 13 July 2021

"There is a risk that Stage 3 of the Sustainable Sewers Program will not be funded by the State Government which will leave the customers in Stage 3 paying very high fees and charges."

Risks identified from the CTTG's response to SA Water's Sustainable Transition Plan, dated 13 July 2021

Listening to your feedback

We've been listening and taking feedback from residents on the CWMS system. On 15 November 2021, we held a forum at which more than 200 residents attended to voice their ideas and concerns.

Residents highlighted their priorities:

- ▶ Making sure the upgrade came at no cost to the resident – after all, they've been putting up with this outdated system for decades.
- ▶ A timely delivery of their upgrade.
- ▶ No remediation costs for residents.
- ▶ Maintenance of sewerage systems should not be the role of a metropolitan council.

Labor's commitment to you:

The Marshall Liberal Government's upgrade plans are woefully insufficient, and we are remedying this with a comprehensive policy that addresses the concerns you have raised.

Our plan will:

- ▶ Convert your house to the SA Water sewerage network at no cost to residents.
- ▶ Save the average household hundreds of dollars every year in reduced sewerage rates.
- ▶ Include regular discussions and consultation with the community, and with a dedicated hotline available exclusively for residents on the CWMS.



“Residents in the North East deserve change. Our plan will provide certainty and significant savings for thousands of CWMS residents.”

Peter Malinauskas MP
SA Labor Leader



“I’ve seen so many horror stories of drainage issues, blockages, and maintenance costs for CWMS residents. Our policy will connect you to the SA Water network at no cost to you, meaning no more expensive maintenance bills for thousands of residents.”

Blair Boyer MP
Member for Wright





Labor's plan to convert Tea Tree Gully CWMS households to SA Water

01

From 1 July 2022, all residents on the Tea Tree Gully CWMS will be an SA Water customer for sewerage services.

02

From 1 July 2022, all households in the City of Tea Tree Gully will only pay SA Water sewerage rates, and not CWMS service charges.

03

This will provide immediate savings to the average household of hundreds of dollars per year.

04

A Malinauskas Labor Government will ensure residents pay no remediation costs incurred as a result of converting their property to the SA Water sewerage network.

05

Labor will create a dedicated customer service unit within SA Water whose sole priority will be to provide information, work through issues, and provide clear timeframes to Tea Tree Gully CWMS residents.



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