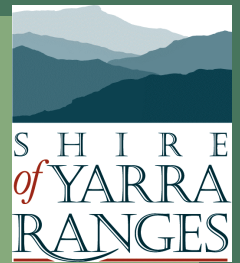


Integrated Planning and Health



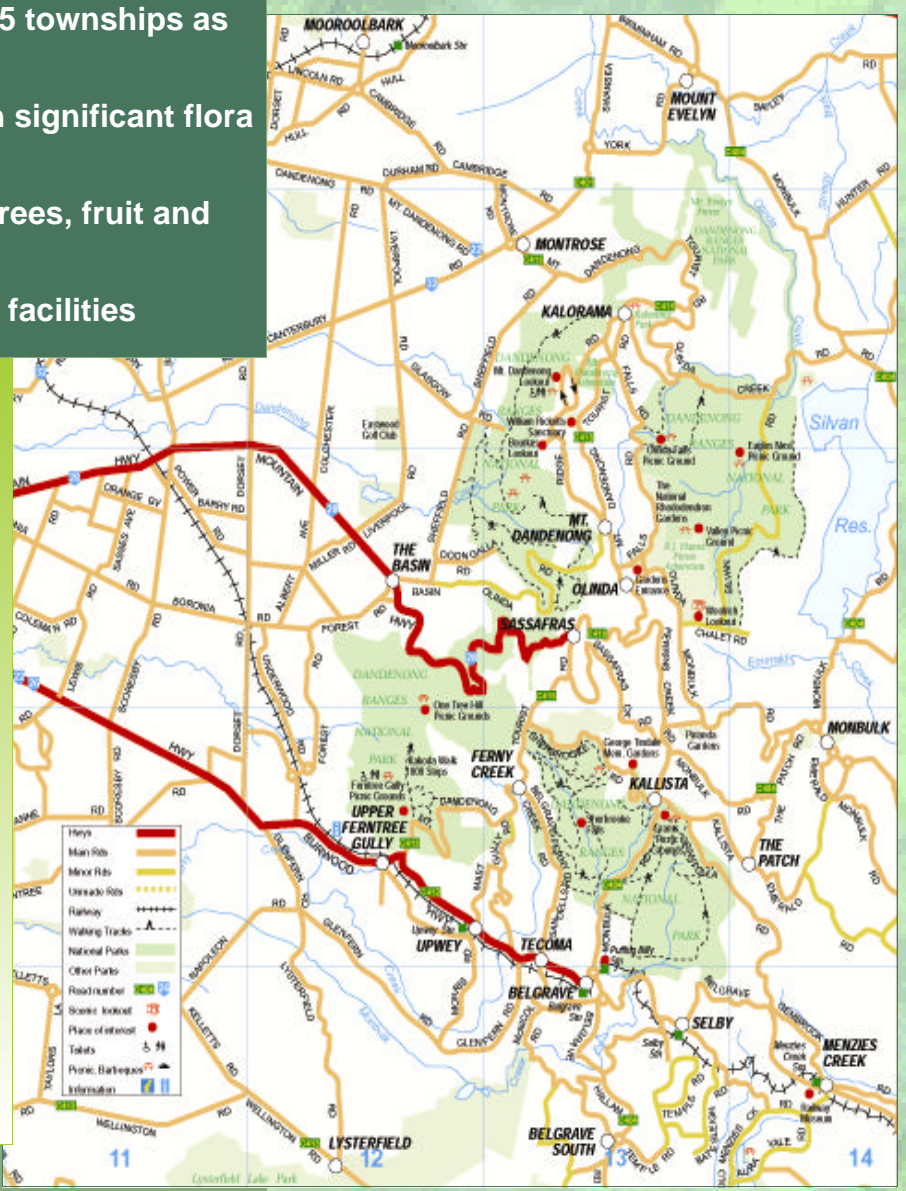
Waste Water in the Dandenongs Project

The Shire of Yarra Ranges recognises the Dandenong Ranges are an icon for the people of Melbourne. This significant environment is at risk. Poorly maintained waste water and septic tank systems are leaking into our creeks and waterways, having an impact on the health of the environment and the broader community. An integrated approach to this issue will provide solutions to protect and preserve the area.

The Shire of Yarra Ranges has now established a dedicated project team to work with the community and key organisations. Together, they will identify long term solutions for waste water management in this outstanding natural area.

- 5 urban fringe suburbs and 15 townships as well as bushland living areas
- National and State Parks with significant flora and fauna
- Intensive farming – flowers, trees, fruit and vegetables
- Extensive tourist venues and facilities

- ### Statistical Snapshot
- Population – 48,000
 - 10,000 unsewered households.
 - 7350 households have been on the metropolitan backlog sewer program since the 1970's.
 - Estimated 12.7 megalitres of wastewater discharged into septic tanks systems daily, which is the equivalent of 13 Olympic sized swimming pools.
 - No works planned to commence sewerage the Dandenong Ranges in the next 25 years.



Integrated Planning and Health

Waste Water in the Dandenongs Project

This project:

- **aims to produce a plan to** develop sustainable solutions and to reduce the negative impacts on the water quality within the Shire's streams and catchments, addressing specific issues such as:
 - best practice wastewater disposal systems
 - nutrient management
 - sullage
 - sewerage 'backlog properties'
 - impact of land use and development
 - water quality monitoring
 - soil erosion
 - storm water
- **will build** a collaborative approach between State and Local Government, the community and business.
- **will enable** all stakeholders to work together to develop an agreed plan with clarity about relevant responsibilities and timelines.

Anticipated outcomes (by June 2003) relating to Waste Water and Public Health are:

- Community understanding of waste water issues in the Dandenongs
- A strategy for addressing waste water management in the Dandenongs agreed by stakeholders
- Clarity about roles and responsibilities for waste water management in the Dandenongs

Anticipated outcomes (by June 2003) relating to Integrated Planning are:

- Development of a method for engaging stakeholders
- Identification of specific legislation and policy barriers and gaps which will need to be addressed

The longer term outcomes relating to waste water are expected to be:

- A healthier environment and community
- A measurable improvement in the water quality of Olinda and Monbulk Creek catchment systems
- A measurable reduction in the rate of dieback of trees within the catchment area

The longer term outcomes relating to Integrated Planning are expected to be:

- Confidence that an integrated planning mechanism will deliver sustainable solutions for communities
- Any necessary legislative and policy changes are in place
- Expanded Council and community input into infrastructure works

Stakeholder Participation

- **September to November 2002 – Briefing meetings** to discuss project and questions below
- **Early February 2003 –** Circulation of **Issues Paper** with options for future wastewater management
- **March and April 2003 – Stakeholder workshops** to provide feedback on the proposals for solutions to wastewater issues and to determine strategies to move the issue forward
- **April and May 2003 – Workshops to refine the strategies and timelines**

We would like to know:

- **What stakeholders would like to see as project outcomes**
- **What issues should be addressed in the Project Issues Paper (produced February 2003)**
- **What each stakeholder organisation will contribute to the project and the sustainable solutions**

For further information call Sophie Akers on 9294 6148 or 1300 368 333.

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