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Submission: The current Sydney Water Operating Licence draft maintains the requirement for Sydney Water to deliver the Priority Sewerage System (PSS), this is good news for a number of communities. The draft licence does, however, not stipulate any time limit for the provision of the service in both Natai and Scotland Island. It is strongly recommended that the final licence established clearer datelines for the provision of sewerage at Scotland Island and Natai. Sydney Water should not be left in a position to cherry pick the areas of operation and continually ignore their regulatory requirement on areas judged "too costly" in order to maximise benefits. The level of investment is high, agreed, but if Sydney Water had carefully staged these areas over time, it would not have required such an upfront capital cost. It should here be reminded that both areas have been in Sydney Water operating licence conditions for almost 15 years.

Speaking now about Scotland Island, the permanent population has increased and there are no upcoming neighboring suburbs which can be used to leverage a more efficient (less cost) provision of sewerage. On-site water treatment technologies may have improved overtime but on-site treatment (all technologies included) is not suited to large parts of Scotland Island. In the meanwhile, the waterways are affected by contamination which also can cause a risk to human health.