



# Goroke Sewerage Scheme

11 McLachlan Street  
(PO Box 481)  
Horsham Victoria 3402

GMMWater, working with the West Wimmera Shire Council, is investing in Goroke to provide a sewerage system.

Stage 1 of the scheme has been completed, which included construction of a new wastewater treatment plant and connections for landholders within the Stage 1 zone. Stage 2 is now being implemented following the acceptance of GMMWater's 2023-2028 price plan.

The sewerage scheme will deliver a reliable and effective wastewater collection and treatment system which will contribute to the prosperity and future growth of the town.

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**Website:** [gmmwater.org.au](http://gmmwater.org.au)

*Certified to best practice standards  
ISO 9001 / 14001 and AS/NZS 4801*

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### 1. Why is a sewerage system being constructed in Goroke?

In 2013, the Goroke community petitioned West Wimmera Shire Council to sewer the town to address ongoing drainage issues and wastewater pooling during wet weather. Small lot sizes and heavy clay soils make it difficult to effectively dispose of wastewater onsite. GMMWater committed to fund the program which included Stage 1 in the 2018-2023 Price Submission to the Essential Services Commission (ESC) and Stage 2 in the 2023-2028 Price Submission.

Reticulated sewerage systems reduce ponding of wastewater which can affect your health, your family and community's health, as well as the environment. The Goroke Sewerage Scheme will provide reliable and effective wastewater collection which is consistent for the entire township. It will contribute to the prosperity and liveability of Goroke and encourage township growth.

### 2. What kind of sewerage system will be installed?

The sewerage system will be a network of pipes, manholes, inspection points, pump stations and a wastewater treatment plant. GMMWater plans to install a STEDS (Septic Tank Effluent Drainage Scheme) which uses the existing septic tanks on property. This provides property owners significant savings by eliminating the need to remove/decommission existing septic tanks.

STEDS have successfully been installed in numerous towns across South Australia and GMMWater operates a STEDS in Natimuk. The existing septic tanks partially treat the wastewater and the overflow from the septic tanks is piped, largely by gravity, to the wastewater treatment plant that was constructed as part of Stage 1. More detail on STEDS is available in Question 23.

### 3. What does this mean for me?

If your property is within the proposed 'Sewerage District' (see map on page 6 of these Frequently Asked Questions) you will have access to, and need to be connected to, the sewer scheme within two years from the date GMMWater declares the scheme operational within your relevant project stage. See Question 6 for more on the proposed boundaries of each stage of the project.

Owners of vacant land, or land with dwelling assessed by council as uninhabitable, should notify GMMWater if they wish to opt in to the scheme. This is covered further in Question 9.

#### 4. What happens if I am not in the sewerage district?

West Wimmera Shire Council will continue to be responsible for sanitation systems outside the sewerage district.

The sewerage system has been designed for potential growth of the town and for extensions to properties outside the district.

New developments and existing properties outside the district may be able to extend the sewerage system in order to connect. These extensions will be at the landowner's cost and subject to GMMWater conditions for servicing new developments in accordance with our Servicing of Subdivisions and Developments Policy. Property owners outside the sewerage district who want to connect to the scheme should contact GMMWater on 1300 659 961 for more information.

#### 5. Who is paying for the construction of the sewerage system?

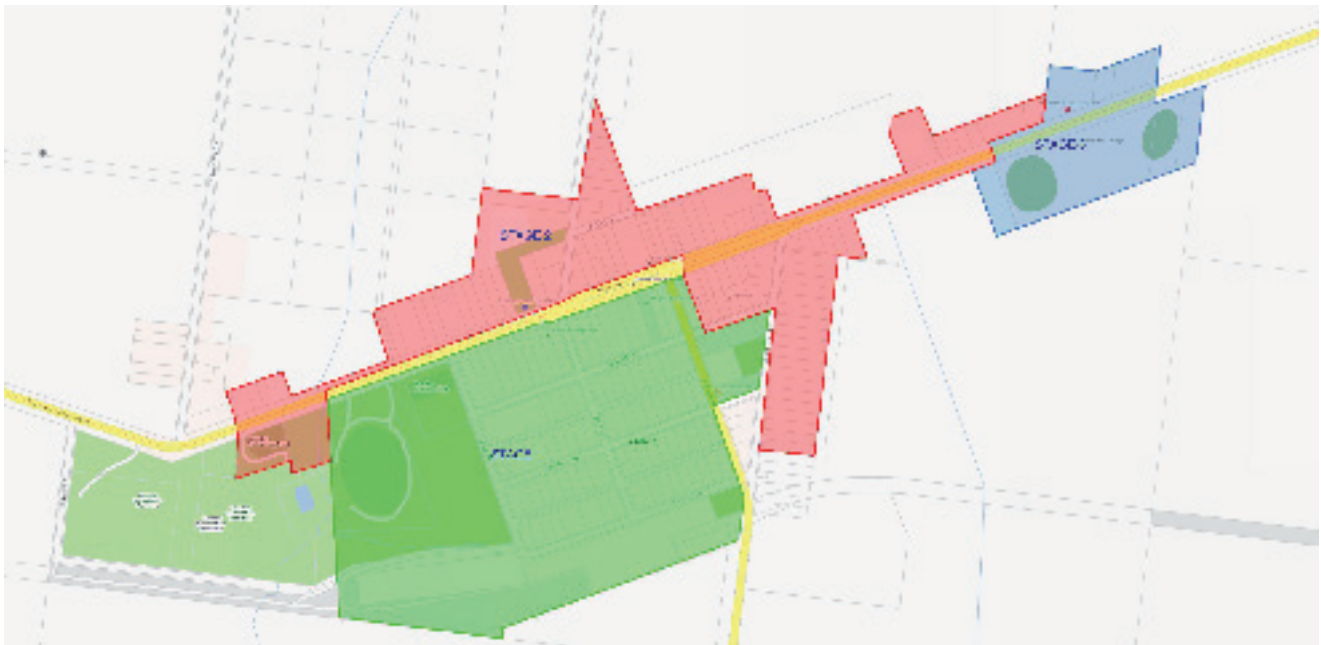
GMMWater will contribute an estimated \$4.2 million to the project in total for Stages 1, 2 and 3. For information about customer costs, please see our 'Summary of Charges and Subsidies' fact sheet.

#### 6. What is the timeline for construction?

The project will be constructed: (see map below).

**Stage 1** (central area of town - generally south of Natimuk-Frances Road and west of Compston Station Street) Construction has been completed. We encourage Stage 1 customers to connect to the system as soon as possible.

**Stage 2** of the sewerage scheme was completed in June 2024, ahead of the practical completion date of September 2024.



## 7. How much does it cost to join the sewerage scheme?

There are some one-off and ongoing costs for customers to connect to the scheme. Refer to our 'Summary of Charges and Subsidies' fact sheet for more information.

## 8. What other financial assistance is available?

You will be given the option to pay the Customer Contribution of \$800 up front or by quarterly instalments of approximately \$20 per quarter over 20 years (80 instalments including interest). Earlier payments can be made if you are able to.

The Department of Health provides grants, up to the full cost to connect to the sewer mains, to concession card holders under its Water and Sewerage Connection Hardship Relief Grant Scheme.

Discounts on quarterly water and wastewater service charges may also be available for concession card holders. For more information please call our Customer Call Centre on 1300 659 961 during business hours or visit our website at [gwmwater.org.au/billing/get-a-concession-or-grant](http://gwmwater.org.au/billing/get-a-concession-or-grant)

## 9. Will vacant lots be required to connect to the scheme?

GWMWater will not install an Inspection Point on vacant land or where buildings are assessed as uninhabitable\* unless the property owner opts in to the project. If you don't opt in during the project but want to connect in the future, the full cost of connecting will apply based on a plumber's quotation. Landholders should notify us on 1300 659 961 if they wish to opt in as soon as possible. For costs associated with connecting vacant land, see our 'Summary of Charges and Subsidies' fact sheet.

## 10. When do I need to connect by?

**Stage 1** customers, who have not connected to date, should connect as soon as possible.

**Stage 2** are able to connect at any time, but need to be connected within 2 years from the date of declaration.

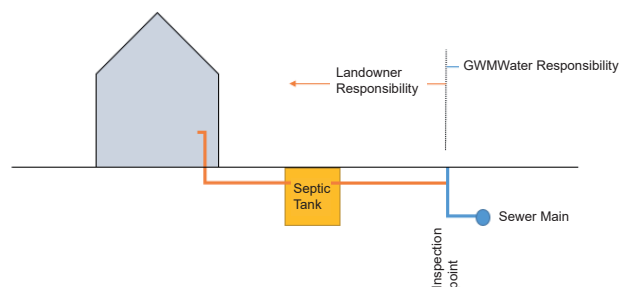
## 11. What do I need to do on my property to be able to connect to the mains?

All connection points for Stages 1 and 2 have been installed.

Once GWMWater has completed works we will meet with property owners to determine a suitable location for the connection or 'inspection opening'. The inspection point should be put in a location which will minimise the plumbing work required to connect to your house drains.

It is the landowner's responsibility to arrange and pay for the house drain pipes (which carry wastewater) to be connected to the inspection point by any licensed plumber of your choosing. Your nominated plumber is responsible for completing the works, including any tidying up of your property after the job is complete.

Stormwater pipes are to be separated and will still drain into the town's stormwater system.



\* As determined under the Local Government Act. Contact West Wimmera Shire Council on 03 5585 9900 if you believe this applies to your property.

## **12. Where will the pipes be located?**

Goroke customers were issued with a map which shows the detailed network design and how it relates to their property.

Customers can also view the whole network design, including the location of the Wastewater Treatment Plant, on page 7.

## **13. What happens if the mains run through my property?**

It is possible that mains will traverse some properties to provide closer access to the sewer mains. GWMWater will make an effort to minimise the impact on properties where this occurs.

You can phone our Customer Call Centre on 1300 659 961 to report any damage to ensure any problems are fixed. Where it can be shown that works have caused financial loss to the landowner, compensation is available.

Easements will be created where the sewer line crosses private property. GWMWater will cover all costs and manage any easement creation processes.

## **14. How will the pipes be installed?**

GWMWater will engage contractors to install sewerage pipes through a combination of open trenches, and horizontal directional boring (where surface impact is to be minimised, e.g. under roads).

## **15. My septic tank works well, why do I have to connect to the sewerage system?**

West Wimmera Shire Council has requested construction of a sewerage system for Goroke.

All developed properties within the proposed Sewerage District (see Question 3) need to connect to the system within two years of the system being declared operational.

## **16. Can I keep using the drain field connected to my septic tank after the sewerage system has been declared operational?**

Property owners have two years to connect after the system is declared operational within your relevant stage of the project. You can use your system until this time.

## **17. I plan to subdivide my property; will the Customer Contribution apply to each new lot created?**

This scheme only applies to existing allotments. Future subdivisions will require the developer to construct all sewerage infrastructure and pay the New Customer Contributions applicable at the time of subdivision for each additional lot created.

## **18. Who owns the septic tanks?**

The property owner will continue to own and be responsible for maintaining and eventually replacing their septic tank and all pipework, fixtures and fittings house-side of the inspection opening.

## **19. Who will clean the septic tanks?**

GWMWater will clean the septic tanks out periodically. This is currently planned to be done every four years. This will be re-assessed as we better understand the time it takes for septic tanks to fill in Goroke.

Contractors will need to access your property with a tanker to pump out your septic tanks. Landowners should consider the layout of back yards and any stockpiling of materials which may restrict access.

## **20. Where is the wastewater treatment plant located?**

The Goroke Wastewater Treatment Plant is located on Kiely Street.

## **21. What is a sewerage district?**

A sewerage district is created under the *Water Act 1989* and gives a water corporation the authority to provide sewerage services to that area and the ability to recover rates and charges to operate the system.

Properties or services outside the sewerage district can connect to the sewer by special approval and agreement with GMMWater. Responsibility for service maintenance, rates and charges is managed through a formal Outside District Agreement or an extension to the sewerage district.

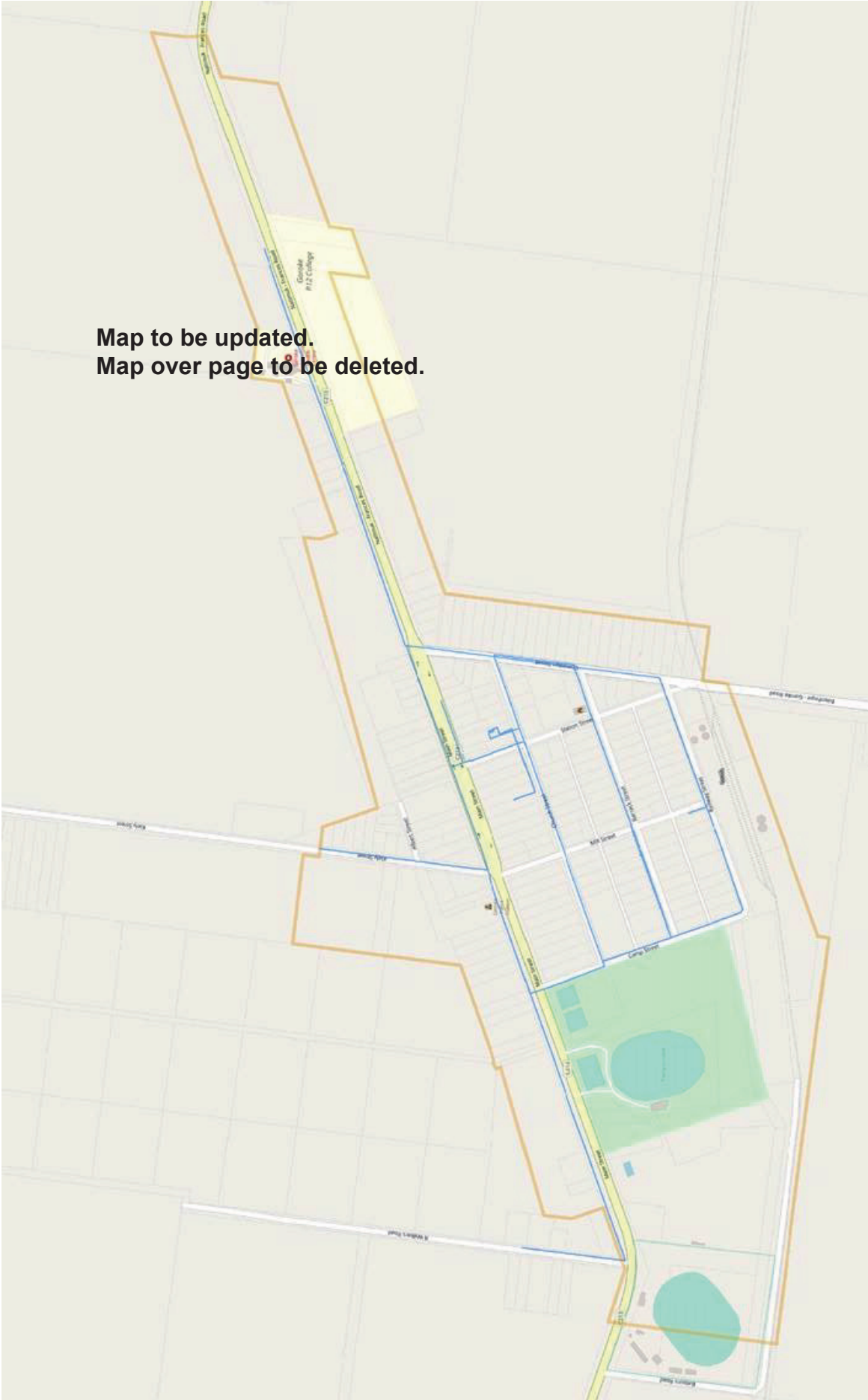
## **22. Why a STEDS system?**

STEDS have successfully been installed in numerous towns across South Australia. GMMWater also operates a STEDS in Natimuk. The schemes have been found to be reliable and easier to maintain. Also because they transfer clearer water, the diameters of the pipes can be smaller and the pipes can be laid on flatter grades. STEDS also have fewer manholes than traditional gravity systems. Overall STEDS systems are a lower impact and more affordable solution.

## **23. How can I stay informed?**

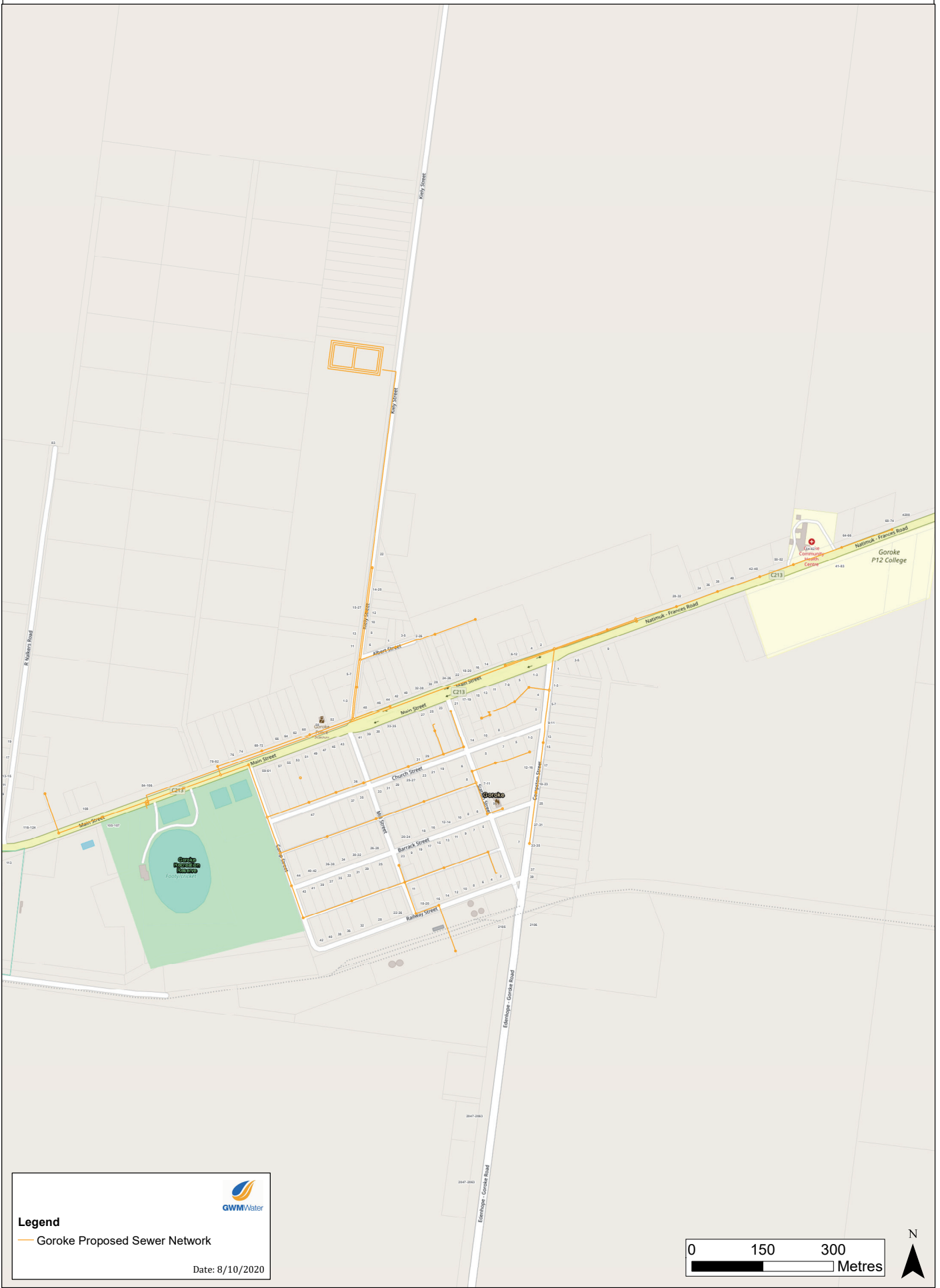
We will send letters and place information in local publications, in key locations and on our website at [gmmwater.org.au/gss](http://gmmwater.org.au/gss) to keep you informed and updated as the project progresses.

# Proposed Sewer District for the Goroke Sewer Scheme




Map to be updated.  
Map over page 8 to be deleted.

# Goroke Proposed Sewer Scheme



**Legend**  
— Goroke Proposed Sewer Network

Date: 8/10/2020



0 150 300 Metres

