Work commences on the Liverpool Water Resource Recovery Facility

September 2026 - Newsletter

We're delivering long-term improvements to the Malabar wastewater treatment system to support future population growth and enhance the efficiency, reliability and sustainability of our water services.

The Malabar System Investment Program

The Liverpool Facility is being upgraded as part of Sydney Water's Malabar System Investment Program, a long-term initiative to enhance wastewater services across Greater Sydney. The first stage of the program includes upgrades at the Liverpool and Glenfield facilities to support the needs of a growing region while continuing to protect the health of our local waterways and the environment.

The Malabar System Alliance, a partnership between Sydney Water, ACCIONA and SMEC, will play a key role in upgrading the Liverpool Water Resource Recovery Facility.

These upgrades will help ensure the region continues to benefit from a modern and resilient wastewater network for years to come.

The program of work will enhance the facility's performance and capacity, helping to ensure wastewater services remain reliable for the communities that depend on them.

The upgrades will also strengthen the network's ability to meet future demand, improve treatment processes, reduce odour impacts for nearby communities and support environmental requirements.

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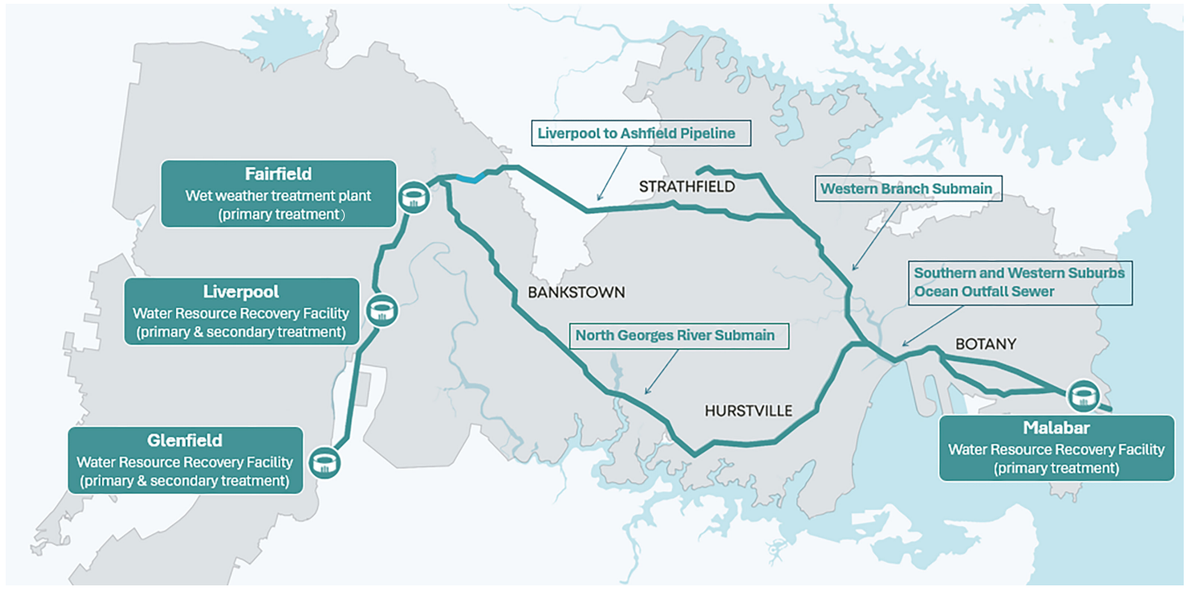
The Malabar system

The Malabar system comprises of several large network and treatment assets that have strong interrelationships that impact the performance and ability of the system, and the individual assets to treat and manage wastewater flows in the system. The Malabar system currently services 2.4 million people and is forecasted to reach 2.9 million by 2056.



Building the future Liverpool wastewater network

A key focus of the project is resource recovery capacity to accommodate future population growth in the region. Through advanced treatment processes, the facility will be better equipped to capture valuable resources from wastewater, including recycled water and renewable energy, supporting a more sustainable approach to water management.

The upgrade will improve the current primary and secondary treatment processes to introduce modern treatment technologies.

New aerobic granular sludge bioreactor tanks will provide advanced wastewater treatment and support greater operational efficiency, while new digester tanks will enable greater resource recovery by converting wastewater byproducts into renewable energy.

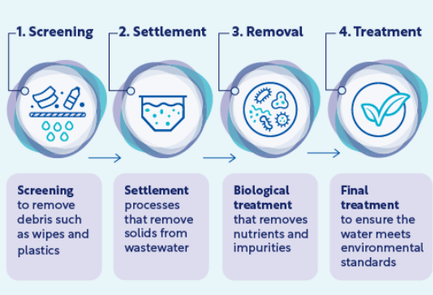
Building the new Liverpool treatment facilities

The upgrade of the Liverpool Water Resource Recovery Facility will include:

- refurbishing primary settling tanks to improve fine solids capture
- upgrading and expanding odour control systems to reduce odours from the site
- constructing a new advanced biological treatment system (aerobic granular sludge tanks) to improve treatment efficiency and increase capacity
- installing two new digester tanks that use naturally occurring microorganisms to break down organic matter to further reduce off-site odours and generate renewable energy
- upgrades of the existing power supply to the treatment plant

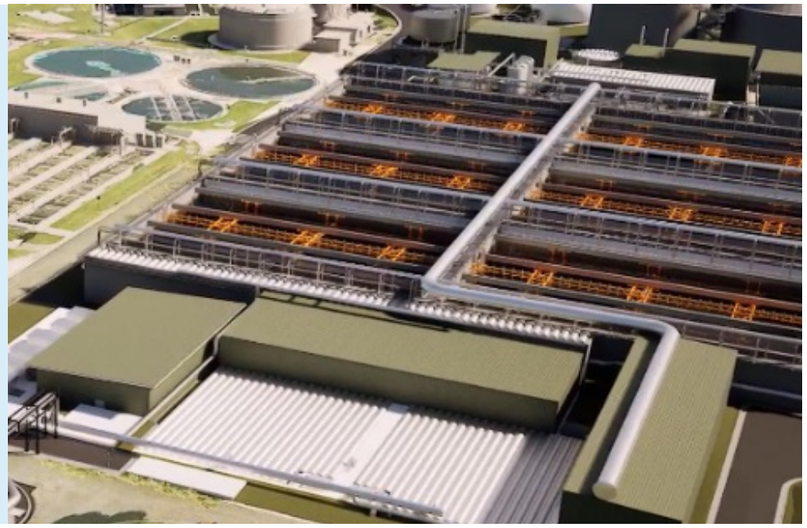
How the treatment process works

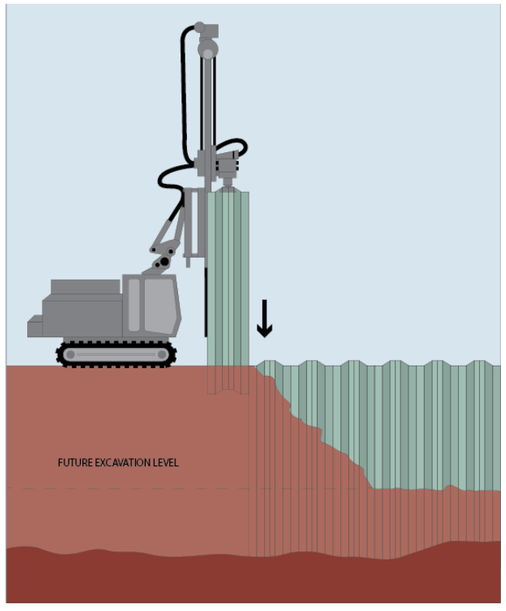
Wastewater arriving at the facility passes through several stages of treatment before being safely released or transferred through the network. These stages include:



Cleaner water using innovative technology

Aerobic granular sludge tanks will be built to help clean wastewater more effectively. The tanks use oxygen and naturally occurring microorganisms to remove pollutants and excess nutrients from wastewater before it is safely returned to the environment. This process ensures cleaner water and healthier local waterways.





Sheet piling

Sheet piles are sections of sheet steel with interlocking edges (or clutches) that are driven into the ground to provide earth retention and excavation support.

Construction for the foundations of the new aerobic granular sludge buffer tanks, will involve sheet piling. The installation of 19-metre-long steel sheet piles into the ground will prevent groundwater from entering the excavated area.

Residents and nearby businesses may notice periods of increased construction noise and vibration while the sheet piles are being installed. These activities are temporary and form an important step in delivering the new aerobic granular sludge buffer tanks (advanced environmentally sustainable wastewater treatment).

Sheet piling will commence in **late September 2026 and continue until December.**

Digester tanks

Two new digester tanks will be built at the Liverpool facility to help breakdown wastewater solids using naturally occurring microorganisms. This process reduces waste and creates useful products that can be reused including:

- **renewable energy (biogas)** – to help power the site
- **nutrient rich biosolids** – that can be reused to support healthy soils

Construction progress

Site establishment

Site establishment is progressing well, with the construction of new site offices and facilities underway. Environmental assessments and planning activities have also been completed to support the next stages of construction.

Utility investigations

Investigations of underground and above ground services have been carried out across the site and surrounding Warwick Farm area to support future upgrades to the plant's power supply infrastructure.

Demolition work

The removal of ageing infrastructures has commenced, including existing inlet structures and digester tanks. This work began in August and will continue throughout the year.

Piling and excavation

Earthworks have commenced to prepare for the construction of the new aerobic granular sludge tanks and supporting infrastructure. This will involve sheet piling to support future excavation and construction activities.

Six month construction look ahead

Activity (subject to change)	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Enabling work, utilities relocation	●	●	●	●	●	●
Demolition of existing ageing infrastructure	●	●	●	●		
Construction of precast yard to support construction of aerobic granular sludge and digester tanks		●	●	●		
Construction of aerobic granular sludge bioreactor tanks and supporting infrastructure			●	●	●	●
Construction of new digester tanks and energy recovery facilities					●	●

Construction activity ●

We'll let you know in advance of any upcoming activities near you.

Construction timeline

We are here

Early 2026 – Mid 2027	Late 2026 –Early 2027	Late 2026 – Late 2028	Early 2027 – Late 2028	Late 2028 – Early 2029
Site establishment, utilities relocation and demolition	Piling and excavation work	Construction of major structures including aerobic granular sludge infrastructure, digesters, odour control facilities, and electrical infrastructure	Site-wide pipework, services installation, roads and landscaping	Commissioning and testing

Contact us
If you have any questions, please contact the Malabar System Alliance on **1800 624 914** or by email at **malabarprogram@sydneywater.com.au**

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Construction hours

Standard construction hours:
Monday to Friday 7am – 6pm and Saturday 8am – 1pm

Demolition work will continue to 5pm on Saturdays, where required.