



FACT
SHEET
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ONSITE SEWAGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

AERATED WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS

The Role of Local Government

The design, installation and operation of domestic On-site Sewage Management Systems (OSMS) are regulated under Local Government Act 1993.

An approval is required for the installation, construction or alteration of a human waste treatment device or storage facility and connected drains, and the ongoing operation of an AWTS.

Council monitors the operation of domestic AWTS within the local government area to ensure that those systems comply with relevant performance standards in accordance with Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

The Role of NSW Health

NSW Health provides accreditation for human waste treatment devices or human waste storage facilities that are intended to receive domestic wastewater or human waste. Accreditation is mandatory for commercially manufactured units and standard designs. The accreditation provides a centralised assessment and testing procedure. A certificate of accreditation may include specific requirements for the installation, operation and maintenance of the tested system. Such conditions become conditions of Council approval. Further information about AWTS and accreditation can be sourced from NSW Department of Health.



City of
Wagga Wagga

The Role of Owners

Owners must comply with the conditions of accreditation of the system, Australian Standards and conditions of approval issued by Council. This includes but is not limited to:

- Entering into a service agreement with an Aerated Wastewater Treatment Systems (AWTS) service technician who is accredited with the manufacturer of the system.
- Ensuring the time period between services does not exceed the prescribed limit, which for most AWTS is 3 months.
- Immediately notify the service technician of any system malfunction.
- Ensuring that defects identified by the service technician are corrected without delay.
- Following the advice provided in the manufacturer's operation and maintenance manual.
- Providing information to tenants regarding the operation & maintenance requirements.
- Checking with the manufacturer before leaving the house vacant for extended periods, as special "shut down" and "start up" procedure may be necessary.

Irrigation Areas

While wastewater from an AWTS has received advanced treatment and may be suitable for either above ground or subsurface irrigation, it may still be a health risk to animals or humans who come into contact with it. Therefore drip irrigation or subsurface are preferred, as they eliminate the risk of contact.

Ensure:

- The irrigation area is installed in accordance with Council's conditions of approval.
- Surface irrigation is not located in areas where contact with humans and/or animals are likely to occur.
- Treated wastewater is not used to irrigate fruit or vegetable crops for human consumption.
- A lilac pipe is used for all irrigation and distribution lines, fittings and fixtures and domestic type garden hoses, taps, fittings, sprinklers and pipe work are not used.
- Irrigation sprinklers comply with Australian Standards are use. Sprinklers producing heavy droplets are to

be used. The use of "micro-sprays" or sprinklers producing aerosols are not permitted.

- Wastewater runoff does not enter adjoining properties or any watercourse (drain, creek, gully or river) causing water pollution.
- The size of the irrigation area, number and type of sprinklers or drippers is sufficient to prevent saturated soil conditions.

Responsibilities of AWTS Service Providers

Service providers undertaking the servicing of an AWTS are to have appropriate training and obtain manufactures approval prior to serving AWTS in the Wagga Wagga Area. When a service is undertaken the service agent is to produce a report certifying compliance with operating requirements, any repairs undertaken and all results of tests carried out. A copy of this report is to be supplied to both the owner and to Council. If a service agent observes that a system failure has occurred, the service provider must notify the owner. When wastewater causes pollution, the service provider must notify Council.

A service in accordance to the system's accreditations and manufacturer's instruction generally includes:

- Checking pumps, air blower, fan or venturi.
- Checking alarm system.
- Checking slime growth on filter media.
- Measuring sludge depth in the primary and clarification chambers.
- Checking operation of sludge return.
- Testing of free residual chlorine, pH and dissolved oxygen and replenishing the disinfectant (usually chlorine)
- Checking the irrigation lines and the irrigation area.
- Check the irrigation area.
- Provide the owner/occupier and Council with a fully completed Service Report.
- Discuss maintenance and repair issues with the home owner.

Sale of the Premises

It is the responsibility of the owner of the premises to ensure that new householders (new owners or tenants) receive an operating manual that includes all relevant information regarding the OSMS.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information visit
www.wagga.nsw.gov.au/publichealth
or contact an Environmental Health Officer
on 1300 292 442.

