

On-Site Sewage Management System

What is an On-Site Sewage Management System?

“On-site sewage management system” is a term used to refer to:

- Septic Systems;
- Aerated Waste Water Treatment Systems;
- Pump Out Systems; and
- Other accredited systems approved by NSW Health.

What are the Real Issues?

1. Poorly maintained or managed on-site sewage management systems are a serious source of water pollution and may present a health risk, cause odours and attract vermin and insects.
2. Surveys undertaken by the Department of Local Government show that septic tanks and other on-site sewage management systems are failing to meet environmental and health protection standards in all parts of NSW.
3. An outbreak of the Hepatitis A disease linked to the consumption of Wallis Lake oysters resulted in 440 reported cases and one death, illustrating the seriousness of health risks.
4. On-Site Sewage Management is not just a concern for coastal catchments.

Inspection Results to Date

1060 On-Site Sewage Management Facility Inspections Undertaken					
307 AWTS			753 Others (Septic etc)		
Total number of Aerated Systems failed - 19	Total number of Aerated Systems requiring upgrade work - 191	Total Number of Aerated Systems requiring no work - 97	Total number of “Other” Systems failed - 63	Total number of “Other” Systems requiring upgrade work - 260	Total number of “Other” Systems requiring no work - 430
6.2% AWTS Fail Rate			8.4% “Other” System Fail Rate		
62.3% of AWTS require upgrading			34.5% of “Other” Systems require upgrading		
31.5% of AWTS - OK			57.1% of “Other” Systems - OK		

- Total number of On-Site Sewage Management Systems located in the Yass Valley LGA - 3700 (approx).
- Once Council has registered all systems and issued an operating approval it will then be in a position to assess the environmental and health risks posed by individual systems, different types of systems and the cumulative impacts in different areas.
- An updated On-Site Sewage Management Plan will then be developed based on this data for the entire LGA.

The Legislative Framework

In 1998 the NSW Government introduced a package of local government regulatory reforms and guidelines to enable more effective Council regulation and performance supervision of small domestic sewage management facilities.

These reforms legislate that Councils must regulate the installation and operation of on-site sewage management systems under the Local Government Act 1993.

THIS IS NOT NEW

Councils have always been responsible for the supervision of on-site sewage management systems but this is a difficult task, especially in areas with large numbers of systems.

Performance Standards

On-Site Sewage Management Systems must be operated in a manner that achieves the following performance standards:

- a. The prevention of the spread of disease by micro-organisms,
- b. The prevention of the spread of foul odours,
- c. The prevention of contamination of water,
- d. The prevention of degradation of soil and vegetation,
- e. The discouragement of insects and vermin,
- f. Ensuring that persons do not come into contact with untreated sewerage or effluent (whether treated or not) in their ordinary activities on the premises concerned, and
- g. The minimisation of any adverse impacts on the amenity of the premises and surrounding lands.

Landholder Responsibilities

Under the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* all landowners with on-site sewage management systems are required to obtain an approval to operate their system from Council and to maintain and manage their systems in accordance with health and environmental performance standards.

To achieve this goal landowners are required to ensure that:

1. Persons do not come into contact with sewerage or effluent (whether treated or not) in their ordinary activities on the premises concerned;
2. Effluent is not discharged into any watercourse or onto any land other than a designated effluent application area;
3. Whatever system of sewage management is used, it is well maintained and operated in a sanitary condition;
4. Relevant information is provided to the Council when requested; and
5. They have lodged an application for approval to operate and paid the scheduled fee for registration and assessment costs.

YASS SALEYARDS

Yass Saleyards hold prime cattle and sheep sales fortnightly, regular feature sales are also held.

Saleyards Operator: Mr Geoff Kelly - Phone 6226 2386

Regular Sale Days

Prime Cattle fortnightly - Tuesday 1.00 pm
Prime Sheep fortnightly - Wednesday 1.00 pm
Regular feature sales

Services Provided

Quality Assured and Accredited (NSQA)
Dining Room open on Sale Days
Truck Wash (AVDATA) with B-Double access
Several Transport Operators (large and small)
Liveweight (computer operated) cattle scales with special weights by arrangement (please phone for further details)
National Livestock Identification System (NLIS)

Facilities

- Easily accessible yards on the edge of town
- Male and female amenities
- Cattle crush with head bale and mounting rail
- Watered sheep and cattle holding yards (earth and concrete with shade)
- Stock feeding if required
- Flood lighting over yard and loading complex



WOOD FIRES

As Anzac Day approaches we start to think about the cold winter months ahead and review our current methods of heating. If wood is the method that you are considering then you will need to seek approval from Yass Valley Council.

To install a new or upgrade your existing wood heater, approval will be required from Council under Section 68 of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW). An application form is available from our office or from our website. Lodgement of this application will cost approximately \$140.00.

With your application you will need to provide a plan of the building in which you intend to install the heater indicating the location of the heater, any doors, windows and walls. You will also need to lodge a copy of the manufacturer's installation details. Note that this includes second-hand heaters.

Processing of your application may take some time depending on the number of other applications that are currently being processed. It is wise to lodge your application well before the cool change, or make alternative, interim arrangements for heating while waiting for your approval.

Once an approval from Council has been obtained a licensed tradesperson must be engaged to install the heater and a Council building inspector will need to visit and inspect the installation for compliance. The heater must not be used until a Final Certificate has been issued. It is important to note that in the event of fire, non approved heater installations may void an insurance claim.

When purchasing your new or second hand wood heater check the compliance plate on the back to make sure that it meets the current Australian Standard (AS/NZ4013:1999). The guide “Selecting, installing and operating domestic solid fuel heaters” has been produced by the Environment Protection Authority. This guide will assist you in selecting the most efficient wood heater for your needs while at the same time protecting our environment. The guide is available by contacting EPA Publications on (02) 9995 5000 (a fee may apply). Alternatively, this guide is available from www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/woodguide.pdf.

