



# On-Site Sewage Management Systems (OSSM)

Operational Strategy

2025

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

The Local Government Act requires that the operation of all On-site Sewage Management Systems (OSSM) within New South Wales be lawfully approved by local government. All landowners are required to hold an Approval to Operate for their OSSM system, which is issued by local Councils. The operational performance of all OSSM systems in NSW is also regulated by local government as per the requirements of the Act.

The *Local Government (General) Regulation* sets the performance standards that must be met for the operation of an OSSM system, and outlines the operational requirements that must be followed by householders in order to obtain and keep their Approval to Operate an OSSM system.

This Strategy has been developed to ensure the sustainable operational management of OSSM systems in our Local Government Area (LGA). The Strategy is aligned with Council's On-Site Wastewater Management Plan (OWMP), which details the design and installation requirements for new and altered OSSM systems within the LGA. This Strategy uses a risk-based criteria to determine an appropriate inspection frequency for systems, to ensure their continued compliance with the legislation. It represents a best practice system of management for Tamworth Regional Council, whilst complying with legislative requirements, and aims to continue Council's involvement in educating the community about sustainable on-site sewage management practices within the LGA.

This Strategy supersedes the *On-Site Sewage Management Strategy* formulated by the Tamworth Regional Council in 2014.

## 1.2 Scope

This Strategy applies to all OSSM systems in the Tamworth Regional Council LGA that do not directly discharge into Tamworth Regional Council sewer mains, and are not regulated under a pollution control licence by the NSW Environmental Protection Authority.

An OSSM system consists of a sewage management facility and, where applicable, its related land application area.

For the purpose of this Strategy an on-site sewage management system includes, but is not limited to the following:

- septic tank;
- aerated wastewater treatment system (AWTS);
- wet composting toilet with sand filter and/or wetland reed bed with sub-surface application system;
- waterless composting toilet and grey water treatment system;
- grey water treatment systems;
- septic tank with sand filter and/or constructed wetland/reed bed with sub-surface application system;
- septic tank and amended soil mound system;
- septic tank and pump-out well; and

- any other system that stores, treats and/or disposes of sewage and/or wastewater on-site.

It is relevant to systems that are domestic and non-domestic in nature, including commercial and industrial developments that are serviced by OSSM systems.

Under the Regulation, to “operate a system of sewage management” means to hold or process, or re-use or otherwise dispose of, sewage or by-products of sewage (whether or not the sewage is generated on the premises on which the system of sewage management is located). This includes the use of artificial wetlands, transpiration mounds, trenches, vegetation and the like in related effluent land application areas, and holding or processing sewage that is to be later discharged into a public sewer.

### 1.3 Purpose and Objectives

Council has an obligation under the Local Government Act, when making decisions, to ensure that the long term and cumulative effects of actions on future generations are considered, as well as the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

The purpose of this *OSSM Operational Strategy* is to ensure that the potential environmental and public health risks associated with the operation of OSSM systems are sustainably managed across the Council LGA.

To achieve this the following objectives have been established:

- maintain a current and accurate database of OSSM systems;
- maintain a regular inspection program of a representative sample of all OSSM systems to ensure they comply with legislative requirements. The frequency of inspections will be determined by each system’s risk classification;
- raise the awareness of property owners using OSSM systems with regard to the correct maintenance and operation of these systems, and the requirements for the replacement of existing systems;
- develop a partnership approach between Council, householders and service agents to ensure the ongoing effective operation of OSSM systems;
- consult with Aerated Wastewater Treatment System (AWTS) service agents in order to achieve uniformity and quality of service reports;
- ensure that the approval and installation of all new OSSM systems, and system alterations, are completed according to Council’s On-Site Wastewater Management Plan (OWMP). This ensures provision is made for installation of the most appropriate and sustainable types of OSSM systems, and that the impacts of such systems on the environment and public health will be minimal;
- maintain links between this Strategy and Council’s *Annual Operational Plan* and other policies and strategies within Council to ensure relevance; and
- ensure that all Council staff involved in the assessment and inspections of existing OSSM systems are aware of the purpose and objectives of this Strategy and are suitably trained to implement the Strategy appropriately.

## 1.4 Approval to Operate

In accordance with Section 68 of the *Local Government Act*, a system of sewage management cannot be operated lawfully without an Approval to Operate from the local Council.

All systems of sewage management must be operated in a manner that achieve the following performance standards identified in Clause 44 of the Local Government (General) Regulation:

- The prevention of the spread of disease by micro-organisms;
- The prevention of the spread of foul odours;
- The prevention of contamination of ground and surface water;
- The prevention of degradation of soil and vegetation;
- The discouragement of insects and vermin;
- Ensuring that persons do not come into contact with untreated sewage or effluent (whether treated or not) in their ordinary activities on the premises concerned;
- The minimisation of any adverse impacts on the amenity of the premises and surrounding lands; and
- If appropriate, provision for the reuse of resources (including nutrients, organic matter and water).

***An Approval to Operate is issued to the landowner and not to the property.***

If an owner or occupier of land is the holder of an Approval to Operate a system of sewage management on the land (being an approval that is in force), any other co-owner or occupiers of that land may operate the system of sewage management (without obtaining a further approval) in accordance with the conditions of the approval. However, if the land is sold (or disposed of by other means) it is necessary for the purchaser to make application for a new approval.

Except for new installations, change of ownership, or revocation of approvals, Council will issue an Approval to Operate on an annual basis following payment of a service fee.

Council is able to levy a service fee under Section 608(2) of the *Local Government Act* for an approval to operate a system of sewage management. Section 107A of the Act provides that an application for an approval to operate is deemed to have been made on payment of the service fee. This fee is able to be listed as a separate item in the annual rates notice provided that the fee item and the funds when collected are separately specified and accounted for. It is noted that this is a separate service fee and is not an increase to the annual rates.

An Approval to Operate for any **new installations** and for any **change of ownership** will require an inspection by Council staff before an approval can be issued.

## 2. LEGISLATION AND GUIDELINES

This section outlines the relevant legislation, guidelines and standards that must be considered by Council in the management of new and existing OSSM systems.

### 2.1 Local Government Act & Local Government (General) Regulation

The *Local Government Act* and the *Local Government (General) Regulation* control the design, installation and operation of OSSM systems in New South Wales. Section 68 of the Act requires property owners to obtain Council's consent prior to the installation, construction

or alteration of a human waste treatment device or storage facility and any drain connected to it.

The *Local Government (General) Regulation* sets out specific requirements for OSSM approvals including matters for Council consideration, performance standards and circumstance where prior Council approval is not required. Division 4 of the Regulation incorporates the requirements for approval to operate an OSSM system.

- When OSSM systems fail to achieve the prescribed requirements, Council may take enforcement action through the Local Government Act Chapter 7 Orders provisions, in particular Section 124 Order 21, Order 22 and Order 22A. These orders give authorised officers the power to specify how a system is to be managed and operated by owners and/or occupiers. Additionally, Order 24 allows Council to direct an occupier or landowner to connect to the public sewerage system when that sewer is within 75m.

## 2.2 Protection of the Environment Operations Act

The Protection of the Environment Operations (POEO) Act gives local government increased powers to take enforcement action in order to protect, restore and enhance the quality of the environment in NSW, having regard to the need to maintain ecologically sustainable development. Where an OSSM system is found to be failing during a compliance inspection the following actions, in addition to Penalty Infringement Notices, are available to Council under the POEO Act:

- **Clean Up Notices**

A Clean Up Notice may be issued to an owner or occupier when a fast response to a pollution incident is required. The notice requires an administrative fee to be paid to Council by the recipient.

- **Prevention Notices**

A Prevention Notice may be issued to an owner or occupier where an OSSM system is found to be operating in an environmentally unsatisfactory manner. The notice requires an administrative fee to be paid to Council by the recipient.

- **Compliance Cost Notices**

This notice allows Council to recover any reasonable costs and expenses it may incur in monitoring action taken under either a Clean Up or Prevention Notice, ensuring the notice is complied with and any other associated matters.

## 2.3 Environment and Health Protection Guidelines

The New South Wales Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure released the “*Onsite Wastewater Management Guidelines*” in 2025 to assist councils in regulating the installation and operation of OSSM systems. The Guidelines are specified guidelines for the purposes of Section 23(a) of the *Local Government Act*. This relates to Council’s responsibility to consider the Guidelines when approving the installation, alteration, construction and operation of an OSSM system. These Guidelines have replaced the previous “*Environment and Health Protection Guidelines: On-site Sewage Management for Single Households*” which were released in 1998.

The Guidelines address the following areas:

- the regulatory framework of Council's operations, including legislation and development planning;
- the development of local OSSM strategies;
- administration and operational strategies;
- site evaluation including the site and soil assessment; and,
- system options and the operation of OSSM systems.

## 2.4 Australian Standards

The most current Australian Standards are referenced below. (**NB:** The Australian Building Codes Board. (2014) National Construction Code Volume Three – Plumbing Code of Australia, Canberra, references the Australian standards listed below in brackets.)

### **AS/NZS 1546.1:2008 – On-site Domestic Wastewater Treatment Units – Part 1: Septic Tanks**

This Standard identifies the performance requirements and criteria for septic tanks, specifies technical means of compliance and provides test specifications that allow septic tanks to be manufactured to comply with the Standard.

### **AS/NZS 1546.2:2008 – On-site Domestic Wastewater Treatment Units – Part 2: Waterless composting toilets**

This Standard covers the requirements of waterless composting toilets which are intended primarily as stand-alone units for residential use but may be suitable for non-residential applications.

### **AS/NZS 1546.3:2017 – On-site Domestic Wastewater Treatment Units – Part 3: Aerated wastewater treatment systems.**

This Standard sets out performance, design, and installation requirements, means of compliance, requirements for operations and maintenance and specification for testing aerated wastewater treatment systems and associated fittings.


### **AS/NZS 1547:2012 – On-site Domestic Wastewater Management**

This Standard identifies the performance statements that cover the overall design and sustainable management of OSSM systems. It provides the requirements for treatment units and their land application systems to achieve sustainable and effective on-site domestic wastewater management in order to protect public health and the environment.

## 2.5 NSW Health Accreditation Guidelines

Clause 41(1) of the *Local Government Act* states that councils must not approve the installation or construction of an OSSM system unless it has a current certificate of accreditation issued by NSW Health. To facilitate the accreditation process NSW Health has developed a range of accreditation guidelines for each type of OSSM system. The guidelines are as follows:

- *Sewage Management Facility Vessel Accreditation Guideline (Septic Tanks, Collection wells, Sewage Ejection Pump Stations, etc) February 2016*

- 
- *Secondary Treatment System Accreditation Guideline May 2018 (AWTS, Sand Filter, Reed Beds)*
  - *Waterless Composting Toilet Accreditation Guideline, May 2010.*
  - *Grey Water Reuse in Single Domestic Premises, April 2000.*
  - *Domestic Grey Water Treatment Systems Accreditation Guidelines, February 2005.*



This Strategy is relevant to a variety of locations in the Tamworth LGA, including but not limited to: Barraba, Manilla, Kootingal, Moonbi, Nundle, Bendemeer, Woolomin, Dungowan, Daruka/Moore Creek, Attunga, Somerton, and Kingswood.

Many systems in the LGA are located in sensitive environments close to rivers, creeks, and underground water supplies. There are many minor streams which drain into the Peel, Cockburn, Namoi, MacDonald and Manilla Rivers. Villages such as Bendemeer, Nundle and Woolomin have many OSSM systems which are located in close proximity to these rivers.

Micro-organisms including harmful bacteria, viruses, and other pathogens can be carried great distances through ground and surface waters. It is essential that the potential threats to public health and the environment from defective, poorly operated or maintained OSSM systems be identified and monitored, and where necessary faults rectified.

In addition to the above, many rural villages are not serviced with treated drinking water, and residents may utilise bore water for domestic use and drinking water supplies. Many of the OSSM systems in village areas are conventional septic tanks, with only a small proportion of these communities serviced by newer AWTS systems. All of these factors, in combination with relatively poor soil quality for effluent dispersion, results in these areas being potentially identified as higher risk for potential public health and environmental harm.

The number of OSSM systems across the LGA is continually increasing as more development occurs in rural and semi-rural areas. Consistent control and regulation of such systems is essential in order to minimise potential negative impacts on environmental and public health, and the location and vulnerability of environmentally sensitive areas must be considered when installing and operating OSSM systems.

## **4. OPERATIONAL CONTENT**

### **4.1 Assessment of Risk and System Categorisation**

All OSSM systems across the Tamworth Regional Council area have been classified according to an allotment based spatial risk assessment process. This spatially based process developed a 3-level risk classification framework which integrates land capability factors, lot size and environmental proximity hazards.

All systems are classified as high, medium or low risk depending on their potential environmental or public health risks. The main considerations in determining the risk categories include:

- Soil type
- Slope of land in effluent land application area
- Climate (notably rainfall and evaporation levels)
- Proximity to watercourses and water bodies
- Proximity to groundwater bores
- Allotment size and available land for effluent application
- Effluent treatment capacity
- Land application methods

To maintain consistency with the [On-Site Wastewater Management Plan](#) classification framework, a risk based methodology has been used to develop the risk classification categories for all OSSM systems across the LGA.

A simple flow chart of the methodology is presented in Figure 1 with the risk classification elements and criteria documented in Table 1.



Figure 1 Inspection Risk Classification Methodology

The four elements of the methodology are explained further below.

**Land capability assessment:** the land capability assessment score has been calculated based on an evaluation of a properties soil, slope, and climate characteristics (refer to [DWA Report and Technical Manual](#)).

**Receiving Environment and Sensitivity:** Proximity of the property to sensitive receiving environments is determined along with an evaluation of the sensitivity of each environmental receptor.

**Land Area:** A properties size is an important consideration in evaluating the risk that the wastewater system poses directly to the environment and more broadly to human health.

**Effluent Quality and Land Application Area Method:** The type of wastewater system and method of effluent management are important considerations in evaluating the risk that the wastewater system poses to human health and the environment.

Table 1 Risk Classification Criteria

Classification Element	Classification Scores		
<b>Land Capability Assessment Score →</b>	<b>1</b> <b>(lower)</b>	<b>2</b> <b>(moderate)</b>	<b>3</b> <b>(higher)</b>
<b>↓ Add receiving environment and sensitivity score ↓</b>			
Receiving Environment Proximity (EP)	0 (lower)	+1 (moderate)	+2 (higher)
Receiving Environment Sensitivity (ES)	0 (low)	+2 (moderate)	+3 (higher)
<b>↓ Assign weightings and calculate OSMS score ↓</b>			
<b>Element Weightings</b>	LCA Score		50%
	Environment Proximity Score (EP)		25%
	Environment Sensitivity Score (ES)		25%
<b>Calculation</b>	<b><i>OSMS Score = (Base LCA * 50%) + (EP * 25%) + (ES * 25%)</i></b>		
<b>OSMS Score (OSMS) →</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>↓ Add land area and system type score ↓</b>			
Land Area (LA)	0 - >10Ha	+2 - 0.25 – 10Ha	+3 - <0.25Ha
Treatment System Performance (TSP)	0 - secondary treatment + sub-soil, sub-surface, or mound	+2 - secondary treatment + surface irrigation - primary treatment + mound	+3 - primary treatment + trench/ETA
<b>↓ Assign weightings and calculate inspection risk classification score ↓</b>			
<b>Element Weightings</b>	OSMS Score		30%
	Land Area Score (LA)		40%
	Treatment System Performance Score (TSP)		30%
<b>Calculation</b>	<b><i>Final Classification Score = (OSMS * 30%) + (LA * 25%) + (TSP * 25%)</i></b>		

Classification Element	Classification Scores		
<b>Inspection Classification Score (ICS) →</b>	<b>&lt;1.4</b>	<b>1.4 – 2.225</b>	<b>&gt;=2.225</b>
↓ Use ICS to determine inspection classification ↓			
<b>Inspection Classification</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>High</b>

Each system is provided a risk classification, and compliance inspections are then carried out at an interval which is appropriate to the individual system’s risk category.

Risk classifications can be re-assessed occasionally, such as when the outcomes from the inspection process may identify situations where it is considered appropriate to change the classification level. In these situations, changes to the classification should only be considered where an inconsistency between the initial classification assumptions and inspection outcomes can be demonstrated.

### High Risk Systems

Systems that have the potential for significant environmental risk in the event of failure and the potential to cause negative impacts on neighbouring properties, local water bodies, or environmentally sensitive areas due to poorly treated sewage leaving the approved OSSM system, are deemed high risk.

Council will endeavour to inspect High Risk systems for compliance once every three (3) years. Inspection fees and, where relevant, re-inspection fees, will apply in accordance with Council’s schedule of fees and charges at the time of inspection. The system must be operating in accordance with the Performance Standards (see 1.4), before compliance can be achieved.

### Medium Risk Systems

Systems which have a potential for failure but with a lower risk factor of negative consequences on environmental and public health are deemed medium risk.

Council will endeavour to inspect medium risk systems for compliance with the legislation once every seven (7) years. Inspection fees and, where relevant, re-inspection fees, will apply in accordance with Council’s schedule of fees and charges at the time of inspection. The system must be operating in accordance with the Performance Standards (see 1.4), before compliance can be achieved.

## Low Risk Systems

Systems which present a low environmental and public health risk should they fail to operate correctly are deemed low risk. They are generally located on large land holdings in remote areas where there will be minimal impact on surrounding neighbours and environmentally sensitive areas. Low risk systems may also have large land application areas and/or low wastewater generation rates.

Council will endeavour to inspect low risk systems for compliance with the legislation once every ten (10) years. Inspection fees and, where relevant, re-inspection fees, will apply in accordance with Council's schedule of fees and charges at the time of inspection. The system must be operating in accordance with the Performance Standards (see 1.4), before compliance can be achieved.

### **4.2 Installation of New Systems or Alteration of Existing Systems**

Any person wishing to install or alter an OSSM system is required to make an application to Council in accordance with Section 68 of the *Local Government Act*. The installation of new or altered OSSM systems shall be determined by the requirements outlined in Councils' [On-Site Wastewater Management Plan](#).

All new or upgraded systems are required to be installed according to the *2014 National Construction Code Series Volume Three – Plumbing Code of Australia*. Once installed, a final inspection must be conducted by Council's Building Certification staff (Authorised Persons, as delegated by the Plumbing Regulator) to ensure all requirements of the installation approval have been fulfilled.

If it is determined that all requirements have been met an Approval to Operate will be issued for the remainder of the financial year. At the commencement of the new financial year the Approval to Operate will revert to an annual service fee and will be charged via the Rate notice as per Section 1.4 of this strategy.

### **4.3 Change of Ownership Requirements**

The approval to operate an OSSM system is issued to the owner of a property, not the property itself in accordance with the *Local Government (General) Regulation*. When a property is sold the new owner is responsible for lodging a change of ownership application to Council within three months of the date of transfer. Once this has been completed a compliance inspection of the system will be conducted and an inspection fee will be charged

If the new property owner has had a recent pre-purchase compliance inspection completed on the OSSM system by a Council officer, they will still need to lodge a change of ownership application with Council. Provided that the pre-purchase inspection did not indicate any failure to comply with the performance standards, an additional inspection will not be required.

If the change of ownership application is not submitted within three months of transfer, a compliance inspection of the system shall be conducted for an inspection fee, even if a pre-purchase inspection was completed.

If it is determined that the system complies with the performance standards an Approval to Operate will be issued for the remainder of the financial year. At the commencement of the new financial year the Approval to Operate will revert to an annual service fee and will be charged via the Rate notice as per Section 1.4 of this strategy.

#### 4.4 Failing Systems

Failure is deemed to have occurred when an OSSM system does not achieve the performance standards listed in Section 1.4 of this Strategy. This failure may result in adverse impacts on public health and/or the environment. If an inspection reveals that a system has failed and rectification works are required, Council will issue correspondence detailing the issue and rectification requirements. System failures may result in Council issuing Orders to conduct works, as previously outlined in Section 2 of this Strategy. The period of time granted by Council to have the required works completed will be based upon the scale of environmental or public health risk.

Council may revoke an Approval to Operate an OSSM system at any time if complaints relating to the system are received and verified by Council. This applies to all systems.

Systems that are not NSW Health accredited shall be considered as failing systems when they are encountered during the inspection process.

Owners of systems which experience failure may be supported with advice and educational material regarding the best practice in operating and maintaining the OSSM system. This may include advice on the use of water saving devices, stormwater diversion and controls, and system pump-out procedures.

In the instance that major rectification works are required, such as the installation of new absorption trenches, a new tank, or an entirely new system, approval must be sought and granted from Council in accordance with Section 68 of the *Local Government Act*. This approval must be granted prior to the commencement of any work. In such cases, Council's On-Site Wastewater Management Plan applies.

#### 4.5 Inspection Procedures and Frequency

Prior to programmed inspections property owners will be notified in writing and given a minimum of one week's notice prior to Council Officers undertaking an inspection. When conducting re-inspections of OSSM systems following an initial programmed inspection, Council Officers will attend the property without written notification.

Council can access a property without providing written notice if the entry to the premises is made with the verbal consent of the owner or occupier of the premises at the time, or if entry to the premises is required because of the existence or reasonable likelihood of a risk to health or safety.

Systems will be inspected at a frequency which is determined by their risk classification. Council will endeavour to inspect

- High risk systems once every three (3) years;
- Medium risk systems once every seven (7) years; and
- Low risk systems once every ten (10) years.

Following any inspection, the landowner will be provided with written correspondence that includes the reasons for the inspection, the findings of the inspection and relevant material to support the performance of OSSM systems.

All systems of sewage management must be operated in accordance with relevant operating specifications and procedures (if any) for the type of sewage system and must allow the removal of any treated sewage (or by-product of sewage) in a safe and sanitary manner.

All OSSM systems must be operated in accordance with the performance standards listed in Section 1.4 of this Strategy. Inspections conducted by Council staff will use these performance standards to assess the level of compliance of OSSM systems.

It should be noted that where an OSSM fails for reasons beyond the control of the person managing the system of sewage management (such as fire, flood, earthquake), this is not considered a breach of performance standards.

## **4.6 Fees and Charges**

The fees and charges issued by Council for the approval to install and operate OSSM systems are issued to the owner/occupier of property. Fees and charges relevant to OSSM approvals and inspections are included in [Council's Annual Operational Plan - Schedule of Fees and Charges](#). All fees and charges are issued in accordance with Section 608 of the *Local Government Act*.

The fee system has three separate parts:

### *1. Fees for Approval to Operate an OSSM system*

Council will charge an annual service fee as a separate item in the annual rates notice of all properties with an OSSM system.

### *2. Fees for Compliance Inspections*

Council will invoice landowners each time an OSSM system is inspected. This includes pre-purchase, change of ownership and routine compliance inspections. If the inspection determines that the system is failing and requires rectification works, re-inspection fees will apply for each subsequent inspection.


### *3. Fees for the Installation of New or Alteration of Existing Systems*

Fees related to Section 68 applications and their associated inspections apply. Application fees are paid up front and further inspection fees plus travel costs will apply.

## **4.7 Education**

Council will undertake educational initiatives to help support landowners to manage their OSSM systems. It should be remembered that owners of OSSM systems are responsible for ensuring that their OSSM complies with the performance standards detailed in Section 1.4 of this strategy.

Landowners will be encouraged to undertake regular maintenance of their systems to reduce the risk of breaching the required performance standards. For example, tanks should be periodically pumped out to remove built up sludge, checked for any visible cracks, broken caps or vent covers, signs of leakage, signs of root intrusion and any problems identified must be rectified. The implementation of water conservation measures will improve the overall functioning of OSSM systems. Further information on water sustainability and how to reduce water consumption can be found [here](#) on Council's website.



Owners of Aerated Wastewater Treatment Systems (AWTS) are required to have their systems serviced by a licenced service technician every 3 months. This is to ensure their system continues to operate in accordance with its NSW Health Certificate of Accreditation.

## **5. Delivery of this Strategy**

The successful delivery of the strategy will be measured against the following Key Performance Indicators (KPI's):

- Number of OSSM inspections per year = ~500;
- This will be split up into the following proportions of each risk group:
  - High Risk ~160 systems);
  - Medium Risk ~265 systems);
  - Low Risk ~75 systems)
- Maintenance of a current database.

## **6. CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

Tamworth Regional Council is committed to continuous improvement in the regulation and operation of OSSM systems. This Strategy may be reviewed if significant changes to relevant technology, legislation or guidelines occur.

## 7. GLOSSARY

<u>AWTS</u>	<p>Aerated Wastewater Treatment System; a wastewater treatment process typically consisting of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Primary Settling of solids and flotation of scum;</li><li>• Secondary oxidation and consumption of organic matter through aeration;</li><li>• Clarification —additional settling of solids; and</li><li>• Disinfection of wastewater before surface irrigation.</li><li>• Mechanical operation of air pumps and pressure pumps which must be serviced quarterly</li></ul>
<u>De-sludging</u>	<p>Withdrawing sludge, scum and liquid from a tank by a qualified service agent licensed to transport and dispose of liquid waste</p>
<u>Effluent</u>	<p>Wastewater discharging from a sewage management facility.</p>
<u>Groundwater</u>	<p>All underground waters.</p>
<u>Land Application Area</u>	<p>The area of land:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• where it is intended to dispose of the effluent and any by-products of sewage from the facility; or</li><li>• to which the effluent and by-products are intended to be applied.</li></ul>
<u>Pathogens</u>	<p>micro-organisms that are potentially disease-causing include but are not limited to bacteria, protozoa and viruses</p>
<u>Septic Tank</u>	<p>Wastewater treatment device that provides a preliminary form of treatment for wastewater, comprising sedimentation of solids, floatation of oils and fats, and anaerobic digestion of sludge.</p>
<u>Sewage Management Facility</u>	<p>a human waste storage facility; and a waste treatment device intended to process sewage; includes a drain connected to such a facility or device.</p>
<u>Trench</u>	<p>An absorption trench located below ground level designed to transpire and absorb effluent discharged from a septic tank. A trench must be installed correctly or pollution of ground water can occur.</p>

## 8. REFERENCES

- Australian/New Zealand Standards 1546.1, 1546.2, 1546.3, 1547. Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability. (2008) *NSW Guidelines for Greywater Reuse in Sewered, Single Household Residential Premises*. New South Wales Government, Sydney.
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