

AERATED WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM CONDITIONS

GENERAL CONDITIONS 2001

DESCRIPTION OF APPROVAL

This approval is to operate an On-site Sewage Management System within the Dungog Shire Council area.

DURATION OF APPROVAL

After the granting of the initial approval, subsequent approvals are to be renewed annually unless otherwise stated by Council and will be subject to an annual renewal fee.

The granting of and continuation of approval will be subject to any or all of the conditions set out in the following pages and any other conditions (site specific) deemed necessary for the maintenance of public and environmental health standards.

The Approval may be revoked or modified by Council under circumstances listed in Section 109 of the Local Government Act 1993, or after inspection of the on-site sewage management system by Council Officers.

THE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Council is currently implementing a management and monitoring program for all on-site sewage management systems in the shire. All owners/occupiers of on-site sewage management systems must have an Approval to Operate for these systems.

Council will be conducting inspections of all on-site sewage management systems in the shire. Due to the number of systems, however, it may take several years for initial inspections to be carried out. If you have any problems with your system in the meantime, you should contact Council or a suitably qualified tradesperson.

CONDITIONS

The conditions set out in this approval apply to all owner/operators of on-site sewage management systems in the Dungog Local Government Area. These may be varied after inspection by Council Officers to include site specific conditions for the improved operation and maintenance of individual systems.

1. On-site sewage management systems should be operated and maintained in a manner that meets the following environmental and health performance objectives over the long term.

- **Prevention of the spread of disease by micro-organisms**

Sewage contains bacteria, viruses, parasites and other disease carrying organisms. Contact with effluent should be minimised or eliminated, particularly for children. Residuals, such as composted material, should be handled carefully. Treated sewage should not be used on edible crops that are consumed raw.

- **Prevention of the spread of foul odours**

- **Prevention of the degradation of soil and vegetation**

On-site sewage management systems should not cause deterioration of land and vegetation quality through soil structure degradation, salinisation, waterlogging, chemical contamination or soil erosion.

- **The discouragement of insects and vermin**

On-site sewage management systems should be maintained to prevent insects and vermin from entering septic tanks and other treatment devices such as greasetraps. Otherwise insects and vermin may multiply in numbers and spread diseases.

- **Prevention of contamination of water**

On-site sewage management systems should be operated and maintained so that surface waters and groundwaters are not contaminated by any flow from treatment systems and land application areas (including effluent, rainfall run-off and contaminated groundwater flow).

- **Ensuring that persons do not come in contact with untreated sewage or effluent (whether treated or not) in their ordinary activities on the premises concerned**

- **If appropriate, provision for the reuse of resources (including nutrients, organic matter water)**

The resources in domestic wastewater (including nutrients, organic matter and water) should be identified and utilised as much as possible within the bounds posed by other performance objectives; water conservation should be practiced and wastewater production should be minimised.

- **Minimisation of any adverse impacts on the amenity of the premises and surrounding lands**

On-site sewage management systems should be operated and maintained so that they do not unreasonably interfere with the quality of life and where possible, so that they add to the local amenity. Special consideration should be given to aesthetics, odours, dust, vectors and excessive noise.

2. The sewage management facility must be maintained in a sanitary condition and must be operated in accordance with the relevant requirements of the Local Government (Approvals) Regulation 1999, and other relevant operating specifications.
3. The system of sewage management must not permit any effluent to discharge into any watercourse or onto any land other than its related effluent application area.

4. The conditions (if any) of any certificate of accreditation issued by the Director-General of the Department of Health for any components of the sewage management facility must be complied with.
5. Owners must submit an application to Council before carrying out work on their on-site wastewater management system and associated pipework that alters the design and operational characteristics of the system from that which was originally approved. Licenced tradesmen must carry out all such work.
6. Tanks should be maintained and inspected to ensure excessive sludge levels do not decrease the efficiency of septic treatment and disposal. Council recommends that tanks with an average family loading be desludged regularly (3 to 5 years).
7. Effluent and septage (sludge) removal must be carried out by Dungog Council Approved transporters and discharged to an approved sewage treatment facility.
8. Council must be notified of any failure of on-site sewage management systems that may result in pollution occurring or pose a risk to public and environmental health.
9. Users of on-site sewage management systems must ensure the efficient treatment and disposal of waste by not placing in the system any substances that the system is not designed for or that may decrease the efficiency of the treatment or disposal process.
10. The owner/occupier shall maintain any land disposal area in regard to regular mowing, adequate cover, elimination of weeds and maintenance of plants and shrubs.
11. Owners of on-site sewage management systems must install and maintain all equipment considered necessary by Council Officers for the safe and efficient, storage, treatment, disposal, removal and transfer of wastewater and effluent.
12. All stormwater and seepage must be prevented from entering the septic tank and be diverted where at higher levels away from on-site disposal areas.
13. Tanks and disposal fields should comply with recommended buffer zones from boundaries, waterways, dwellings, pathways, pools, dams, driveways and paths and groundwater bores.
14. All untreated effluent must be disposed of by sub-surface disposal.
15. Livestock and vehicles should be kept out of sub-surface disposal areas.
16. The person operating the system of sewage management must provide details of the way in which it is operated and evidence of compliance with the relevant requirements of the Regulation and of the conditions of the approval whenever Council reasonably requires a person to do so.
17. Council may carry out inspections at a frequency accorded to the assessed risk of the system, to determine compliance with the approval and fees will be charged for these inspections. These fees are specified in the schedule of fees included with the Council Management Plan for the period in which the inspection is carried out.

The following conditions apply specifically to owners and operators of the nominated system and are additional to those conditions set out above.

AERATED WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM CONDITIONS

1. No spray irrigation is allowed unless the effluent from the aerated septic tank is in accordance with the specifications of Health Department for effluent from that system.
2. Discharge or runoff into stormwater easements or other drainage channels is strictly prohibited.
3. Soaker hoses, common garden sprinklers and standard water hoses and fittings are not to be used to irrigate from the approved system.
4. The disposal area to receive effluent from the aerated septic tank is to comply with Council's requirements and the design detailed in the approved plans prior to connection of the irrigation system to the aerated septic tank.
5. Sprinklers with a throw of not more than 2 metres shall be used and shall produce coarse droplets (instead of a fine mist) to minimise the risk of aerosol dispersion and wind drift of effluent. A plume height shall not be more than 400mm above the finished surface of the irrigation area. The irrigation pipes and sprinklers are to be installed in accordance with the plan approved by Council.
6. Spray irrigation equipment connected to the distribution lines shall be fixed.
7. All irrigation pipework and fittings shall comply with all parts of Australian Standard 1477 or Australian Standard 2698.2.
8. There shall be no cross connection between any irrigation pipework and a potable water supply.
9. Along the boundary of the surface irrigation area there shall be at least two (2) warning signs clearly visible to inform the occupants of the premises that recycled water is used for irrigation. These signs shall comply with AS 1319 and have:
 - a) lettering visible at three (3) metres, and
 - b) wording, "**Recycled water, avoid contact DO NOT DRINK.**"
10. The owner/occupier shall enter into an annual service contract, requiring quarterly servicing, with the manufacturer, or other person authorised in writing by Council to service aerated septic tanks.
11. Recreational lawn areas of domestic premises shall not be used for disposal of effluent from aerated septic tanks.
12. The owner/occupier shall maintain the irrigation area in regard to adequate cover, elimination of weeds, maintenance of plants and shrubs.

13. Sludge removal is to be carried out by a Council approved transport contractor and must be disposed of at an approved sewage treatment depot.

RIGHT OF REVIEW AND APPEAL

The applicant may request the Council to review the determination. Such request must be made within twenty-eight (28) days of the above date of determination. The Council will review the determination and give notice to you as soon as practicable thereafter (see Local Government Act 1993,s 100).

If you are dissatisfied with the Council's determination of this application, either initially or upon review, you may appeal to the Land and Environment Court, but if you do the appeal must be made within twelve (12) months (see Local Government Act 1993,s 176).

Your attention is also directed to the provisions of s107 of the Local Government Act, which provides that the Council may determine to extend or renew this approval if satisfied there is good cause for doing so. See the detailed provisions of that Section.

If you require further information in relation to this approval please contact Council's Environmental Health Officer, Dan Bugitti on (02) 4995 7777.

TJ Kavanagh
MANAGER ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES