

## Why does my system require registration and approval?

NSW Government regulations require every on site sewage management system to be registered with the council.

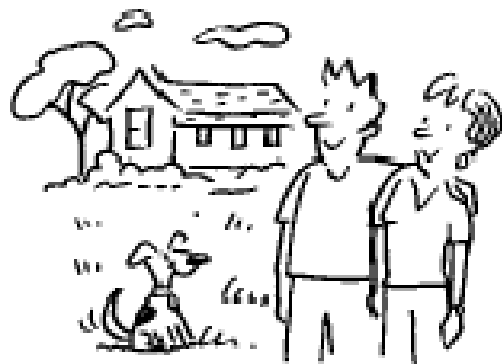
This is necessary so the Council can monitor and manage the overall impact of all of the septic systems in the drainage catchments.

The Council issues an 'approval to operate a system of sewage management' which sets out the basic rules you need to follow to keep the system working well. The details are set out in the Council's on-site sewage management strategy which may be viewed online at Council's website.

Failure to obtain an approval to operate may result in Council issuing a penalty infringement notice.

A fee for the approval to operate an on-site sewage management facility will be applicable and will be set with Council's Management Plan.

Council has initially waived inspection fees in the implementation of the strategy.



### Further Information

Should you require any further information on on-site sewage management systems or Tenterfield Shire Council's inspection program, please contact Council's Department of Environmental Services

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TENTERFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL



## On-Site Sewage Management Systems Inspection Program



## What is an on-site sewage management system?

“On-site sewage management system” refers to all kinds of septic systems, including traditional septic tanks, pump-outs, composting toilets and aerated septic systems.

Basically if your home is not connected to the sewer you have some sort of on-site sewage management system in your back yard.

## What are my responsibilities regarding on-site sewage management systems?

**As a septic system owner, you are responsible for –**

- ✓ Ensuring the house drains and tank don't leak
- ✓ Getting things fixed if they are not working properly
- ✓ Keeping the system well maintained
- ✓ Ensuring the system is checked regularly
- ✓ Getting the tank pumped out when it becomes too full to process the flow going into it
- ✓ Maintaining and protecting the absorption field
- ✓ Complying with the council's requirements for installation, maintenance service and operation
- ✓ Paying fees for inspections or maintenance.

## What are Council's responsibilities regarding on-site sewage management systems?

Council is responsible for –

- ✓ Providing general services for the protection of the environment, public health and safety
- ✓ Helping people keep their septic systems working well
- ✓ Providing a scheme of systematic management for all of the septic systems in the council area, including environmental monitoring and technical advice.
- ✓ Providing advice and contact information when people need professional services to design or maintain septic systems
- ✓ Regulating the installation, operation and maintenance of septic systems, conducting audits and inspections and
- ✓ Keeping a register of systems in use in the council area
- ✓ Providing community information and education programs

## What does the program involve?

Council officers will be visiting your property in order to conduct an inspection of your on-site sewage management system. Initially priority will be given to high risk systems.

Whilst at your premises, Council will be looking at your on-site sewage management system to determine if it is functioning adequately.

Council officers will also assess your system according to its likelihood to cause environmental or public health issues. The risk classifications are listed over the page.

## What are the risk classifications for on-site sewage management systems?

### HIGH RISK AREAS

These are highly vulnerable and sensitive environments like villages and areas close to drinking water sources, rivers and wetlands where the release of sewage pollution can cause a lot of harm. If your septic system is in a high-risk area, the Council will arrange to have regular checks made for the assurance of safety and good practice.

### MEDIUM RISK AREAS

These are vulnerable areas with a lower risk of water pollution because of factors like set backs, good soil and vegetation and lower housing density. If your septic system is in a medium risk area, the council may ask you to do regularly checks yourself and it may do random audits.

### LOW RISK AREAS

These are areas where septic systems are located on good soil well away from waterways, drainage lines, homes and sensitive environments. If your septic system is in a low risk area, registration may be all that is required provided you ensure that it is well managed and maintained.

