



## AERATED WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS

### Summary:

The purpose of this policy is to provide clear direction to regulate installation, maintenance and monitoring procedures for the use of Aerated Wastewater Treatment Systems

<b>Policy Number</b>	3.011
<b>File Number</b>	N/A
<b>Document version</b>	V5.0
<b>Adoption Date</b>	23 September 2020
<b>Approved By</b>	Council
<b>Endorsed By</b>	Council
<b>Minute Number</b>	196/20
<b>Consultation Period</b>	N/A
<b>Review Due Date</b>	September 2023 – 3 years
<b>Department</b>	Office of Chief Corporate Officer
<b>Policy Custodian</b>	Manager Planning & Development Services
<b>Superseded Documents</b>	N/A
<b>Related Legislation</b>	N/A
<b>Delegations of Authority</b>	Manager Planning & Development Services

### 1. Overview

This Policy was adopted to regulate installation, maintenance and monitoring procedures for the use of Aerated Wastewater Treatment Systems, to provide a more flexible approach to water conservation, re-use and to ensure the protection of public health and the environment in the Tenterfield Shire area.

It should be read in conjunction with Council's current On-Site Sewage Management Policy.

### 2. Policy Principles

To ensure the correct installation and operation of aerated wastewater treatment systems across Tenterfield Shire.

### 3. Policy Objectives

The objectives of this policy are to set standards for the installation and operation of aerated wastewater treatment systems.

#### **4. Policy Statement**

That Council permit the installation of Aerated Wastewater Treatment Systems, subject to the following:

1. Aerated Wastewater Treatment Systems are to be accredited by NSW Health;
2. Aerated Wastewater Treatment Systems are to be installed by a licenced plumber with all plumbing work to be carried out in accordance with the National Plumbing and Drainage Code and the New South Wales Plumbing and Drainage Code of Practice.
3. Aerated Wastewater Treatment Systems including the construction of irrigated areas are to be designed and installed in accordance with relevant Standards including AS/NZS 1547:2012, AS/NZS 1546.3.2008, and/or the Environment and Health Protection Guidelines for "*On-Site Sewage Management for Single Households*".
4. All irrigation area(s) being maintained in good order at all times. Such maintenance includes;
  - a. For mulched spray/drip surface and drip sub-surface irrigation areas, regular weeding, adding more bark/mulch to maintain depth, and replacement of plants as necessary; and
  - b. For grassed sub-surface irrigation areas, regular mowing.
5. Aerated Wastewater Treatment Systems are limited to either non-sewered areas or for subdivisions adjacent to reticulated sewer with lot sizes 4000 m<sup>2</sup> or greater, despite being within 70 metres, or close enough to connect to reticulated sewage providing they contribute to an overall holistic environmentally friendly subdivision on suitable land.
6. Aerated Wastewater Treatment Systems are to be entered on Council's date base with the facility to track mandatory maintenance reports.
7. The owner of the Aerated Wastewater Treatment System must enter into an annual maintenance contact with the manufacturer or another suitably qualified person (designer or installer). These details are to be forward to Council. The system must provide 3 months storage of chlorine tablets.
8. A copy of the service report shall be provided by the contractor to the Council and to the owner, after each service.
9. The effluent application area shall not be used for active recreation purposes and must not be used to grow vegetable or fruit for human consumption.

10. At least 2 prescribed warning signs should be installed along the boundary of the approved landscaped effluent application area with the words "RECLAIMED EFFLUENT – NOT FOR DRINKING – AVOID CONTACT".
11. The effluent shall at all times comply with the following standard.
12. Physical and chemical properties of treated effluent are to be maintained in accordance with the manufacturers specifications, and disposal areas are to be designed to accommodate these parameters, and in accordance with point 3 of this policy.
13. A telephone number for emergency service shall be fixed and located in or near the alarm control panel so as to be easily visible.
14. Vehicular traffic must be excluded from the disposal area.
15. Recommended buffer distances for On-Site Effluent Disposal Areas:

	SYSTEM TYPE	RECOMMENDED BUFFER DISTANCES
1	All land application systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100 metres to permanent surface waters (e.g. river, streams, lakes, etc.)</li> <li>• 250 metres to domestic groundwater well and/or bore</li> <li>• 40 metres to other waters (eg farm dams, intermittent waterways and drainage channels, etc.)</li> </ul>
2	Surface spray irrigation (by large droplet sprinklers with maximum 1.0m radius spray)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 metres if area up-gradient and 3 metres if area down-gradient of driveways and property boundaries</li> <li>• 15 meters to dwellings</li> <li>• 3 metres to paths and walkways</li> <li>• 6 metres to swimming pools</li> </ul>
3	Surface drip and trickle irrigation Sub-surface irrigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 metres if area up-gradient and 3 metres if area down-gradient of swimming pools, property boundaries, driveways and buildings.</li> </ul>

16. Council may at any time resolve to specify training and accreditation requirements of persons acting as service agents for AWTS systems, Council may also specify standard testing procedures, site management checks (such as assessment of irrigation area) and reporting requirements, as well as procedure for lodging reports and for maintaining accreditation as a qualified person.
17. Council may carry out inspections where problems are identified by AWTS service agents or through random monitoring of these systems to

ensure that the service agents are inspecting and monitoring to the required standard of system operation.

## 5. Scope

The installation and operation of on site aerated wastewater treatment systems.

## 6. Accountability, Roles & Responsibility

### Elected Council

Not applicable.

### Chief Executive, Executive and Management Teams

Not applicable.

### Management Oversight Group

Not applicable.

### Individual Managers

Manager Planning & Development Services.

## 7. Definitions

"*aerated wastewater treatment system*" (AWTS) treat wastewater to a secondary standard (a higher standard than septic tanks and composting toilets), so that the effluent can be used for irrigation on your property. AWTS use several pumps and are more complicated than septic tanks, and require more frequent maintenance.

**AWTS:** a wastewater treatment process typically involving:

- Settling of solids and flotation of scum;
- Oxidation and consumption of organic matter through aeration;
- Clarification - secondary settling of solids, and;
- Disinfection of wastewater before surface irrigation.

## 8. Related Documents, Standards & Guidelines

- AS/NZS 1547:2012;
- AS/NZS 1546.3.2008;
- Environment and Health Protection Guidelines for "*On-Site Sewage Management for Single Households*".
- Local Government Act, 1993 (Item 5 of Part C of the table to section 68)

## 9. Version Control & Change History

Version	Date	Modified by	Details
V1.0	26/04/12	Council	Adoption of Original Policy (Res No. 190/07)
V2.0	22/08/12	Council	Reviewed/Amended (Res No. 308/12)
V3.0	20/05/15	Council	Reviewed/Amended (Res No. 138/15)
V4.0	23/08/17	Council	Review/Amended (Res No. 168/17)
V5.0	23/09/20	Council	Review/Amended (Res No. 196/20)

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