

POLICY NAME	AERATED WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS	
Date Adopted	28 May 2025	
Resolution Number	62/25	
Policy Custodian	Director of Corporate Services	
Policy Development Officer	Manager Planning & Regulation	
Review Date	3 years from resolution date	
Relevant Legislation	AS/NZS 1547:2012; AS/NZS 1546.3.2008; Environment and Health Protection Guidelines for "On-Site Sewage Management for Single Households". <i>Local Government Act, 1993</i> (Item 5 of Part C of the table to section 68)	
Related Documents	On Site Sewage Management Systems Policy AS/NZS 1547:2012 AS/NZS 1546.3.2008 Environment and Health Protection Guidelines for "On-Site Sewage Management for Single Households" <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> (Item 5 of Part C of the table to s68)	

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 Scope

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 licensed 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 4000m² 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 data base with the facility to track mandatory maintenance reports;
7. The owner of the Aerated Wastewater Treatment System must enter into an annual maintenance contract with the manufacturer or another suitably qualified person (designer or installer). These details are to be forwarded 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 relevant Australian standard below;
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"> • 100 metres to permanent surface waters (e.g. river, streams, lakes, etc.) • 250 metres to domestic groundwater well and/or bore • 40 metres to other waters (e.g. farm dams, intermittent waterways and drainage channels, etc.)
2	Surface spray irrigation (by large droplet sprinklers with maximum 1.0 radius spray)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 metres if area up-gradient and 3 metres if area down-gradient of driveways and property boundaries • 15 metres to dwellings • 3 metres to paths and walkways • 6 metres to swimming pools
3	Surface drip and trickle irrigation sub-surface irrigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 metres if area up-gradient and 3 metres if area down-gradient of swimming pools, property boundaries, driveways and buildings.

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 procedures 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. Policy Definitions

Definition	Meaning
"aerated wastewater treatment system" (AWTS)	<p>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.</p> <p>AWTS: a wastewater treatment process typically involving:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
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VERSION CONTROL & CHANGE HISTORY

Previous Versions	Date of Adoption by Council	Resolution #	Author/Editor	Summary of Changes
V1.0	26/04/12	190/07	Manager Planning & Regulation	Adoption of Original Policy
V2.0	22/08/12	308/12	Manager Planning & Regulation	Reviewed/Amended
V3.0	20/05/15	138/15	Manager Planning & Regulation	Reviewed/Amended
V4.0	23/08/17	168/17	Manager Planning & Regulation	Reviewed/Amended
V5.0	23/09/20	196/20	Manager Planning & Regulation	Reviewed/Amended
V6.0	21/12/22	248/22	Manager Planning & Regulation	Reviewed/Amended
V7.0	28/05/25	62/25	Manager Planning & Regulation	Reviewed and minor administrative changes