

## Environmental Health

# Wastewater Management Scheme

### Overview

Council as the regulatory authority under the South Australia Public Health Act 2011, South Australian Public Health (Wastewater) Regulations 2013 and Codes is responsible to implement wastewater management systems accordingly.

Wastewater Management Schemes are required for the safe collection, treatment and disposal or reuse of wastewater is necessary to safeguard the health of the community and protect the environment is overseen by Council.

### What is Wastewater?

Wastewater is all 'spent' 'used' 'dirty' water from domestic, commercial and industrial premises sinks, showers, washing machines and toilets.

### Types of Wastewater Management Systems

#### **Onsite wastewater management systems** (managed by owner)

- *Septic Tank with Soakage Systems*  
This system holds wastewater onsite outside the household where the household does not have access to an Effluent Management System. The septic system consists of a septic tank and soakage area. The wastewater is held in the tank long enough for solids to settle to the bottom. The liquid wastewater then exits the tank into the soakage area. These tanks need to be pumped out every four years by the home owner. Onsite systems can degrade the environment and become a health threat to the community.
- *Aerated Wastewater Treatment Systems (aerobic systems)*  
This system is designed to treat wastewater suitable for surface and subsurface irrigation through an approved aerated wastewater treatment system. These systems require a large irrigation area to dispose of the treated effluent onsite and must have quarterly maintenance services by an approved contractor.

#### **Offsite wastewater management systems / Community Systems** (managed by Council)

- *Septic Tank Effluent Disposal Scheme (STEDS)*  
Septic Tank Effluent Disposal Scheme still use a Septic Tank but the wastewater is connected to a sewer system (instead of passing into a soakage area) which is then connected to a treatment plant. These systems comprise of a gravity collection system and provide a connection to properties at a depth to allow connection of the property wastewater system. The system receives the discharge from the septic tank and on the property pumps it through

a series of pump stations to the treatment centre ponds. Council organize emptying of septic tanks every 4 years.

- *Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS)*  
This system bypasses the need for a septic tank whereby the property is directly connected to the Community Wastewater Management System.

If your property has access to the CWMS schemes then this method must be utilized.

### Do I Need to Lodge a Wastewater Application?

A Wastewater Application must be submitted to Council for all new and also alterations to existing wastewater systems.

The application form must be completed in full and lodged with Council, with supporting documentation and plans.

The preferred method of lodgment is electronic and completed applications can be emailed to [info@coppercoast.sa.gov.au](mailto:info@coppercoast.sa.gov.au).

### Fees and Charges

- Application Fee – an application fee must be paid before the application will be considered.
- Connection Fee - all **new** properties connecting to the CWMS or STEDS (effluent) are required to pay a once off contribution fee to Council of \$2500 (**established** properties \$250) to Councils infrastructure.
- Annual Service Charge – refer to Fees and Charges.

### Inspections and Certificate of Compliance

All drainage infrastructure must also be inspected by Councils Environmental Health Office prior to backfilling. As-constructed Plans and Certificate of Compliances documentation of each new connection and extension of the drainage network must be lodged with Council by the qualified installer for compliance and future reference.

### Further information

- SA Health – [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au)
- A checklist has been prepared to assist with the application. All forms and checklist are available on the website.
- Refer to the Fees and Charges register on the website for fees in lodgement, connection and maintaining.

Please contact Council on 8828 1200 option 6, if you wish to discuss your Wastewater Management needs further.

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[www.coppercoast.sa.gov.au](http://www.coppercoast.sa.gov.au)

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Version 1: January 2019