

For Your Information

Council has identified that the Sewage Management Facility approved on your property is now due for reinspection.

The purpose of the reinspection is to review the performance of your system, with consideration given to:-

- Prevention of public health risks
- Protection of soil quality
- Protection of surface waters (e.g. creeks, rivers, lakes)
- Protection of ground waters
- Conservation and reuse of resources
- Protection of community amenity

Council has categorised the risk of operating your system in accordance with the above performance criteria. The majority of systems will be issued a five (5) year approval, requiring a renewal and a further inspection in five years. However, those systems that are determined to be operating at a higher risk to the environment and/or public health will be issued a one (1) year approval and will require an annual renewal and inspection.

Council has identified some key factors that increase a system's performance, they include:-

1. **Septic tank desludging – this maintenance action increases the detention time and allows the suspended material to settle, thus reducing clogging material that may enter the trench. Filters are available to reduce the suspended material entering the absorption trenches.**
2. **Reduced water usage through conservation practices.**
3. **Spread washing days throughout the week to reduce major impacts.**
4. **The construction of a secondary trench with the ability to alternate – Consult Council to ensure the placement complies prior to construction.**

Council currently requires a renewal fee and a reinspection fee for this service.

The renewal fee covers the office administration associated with the establishment of the Sewage Management System, the keeping of a database that tracks the renewal frequency and inspections undertaken.

The inspection fee covers the cost associated with the physical inspection and assessment process. Components that make up the fee include – travel costs, professional labour costs, consultation with owners / trade persons regarding upgrading of a system, community awareness programs.

Once payment has been made, an inspection will be undertaken by a Council Officer. Confirmation of the inspection and the result shall be forwarded with the new operational approval. This shall indicate the period for which the approval is valid.

Should you require any further information regarding the program or assistance to improve the performance of your system please contact Environmental Services on **02 4429 3610**.