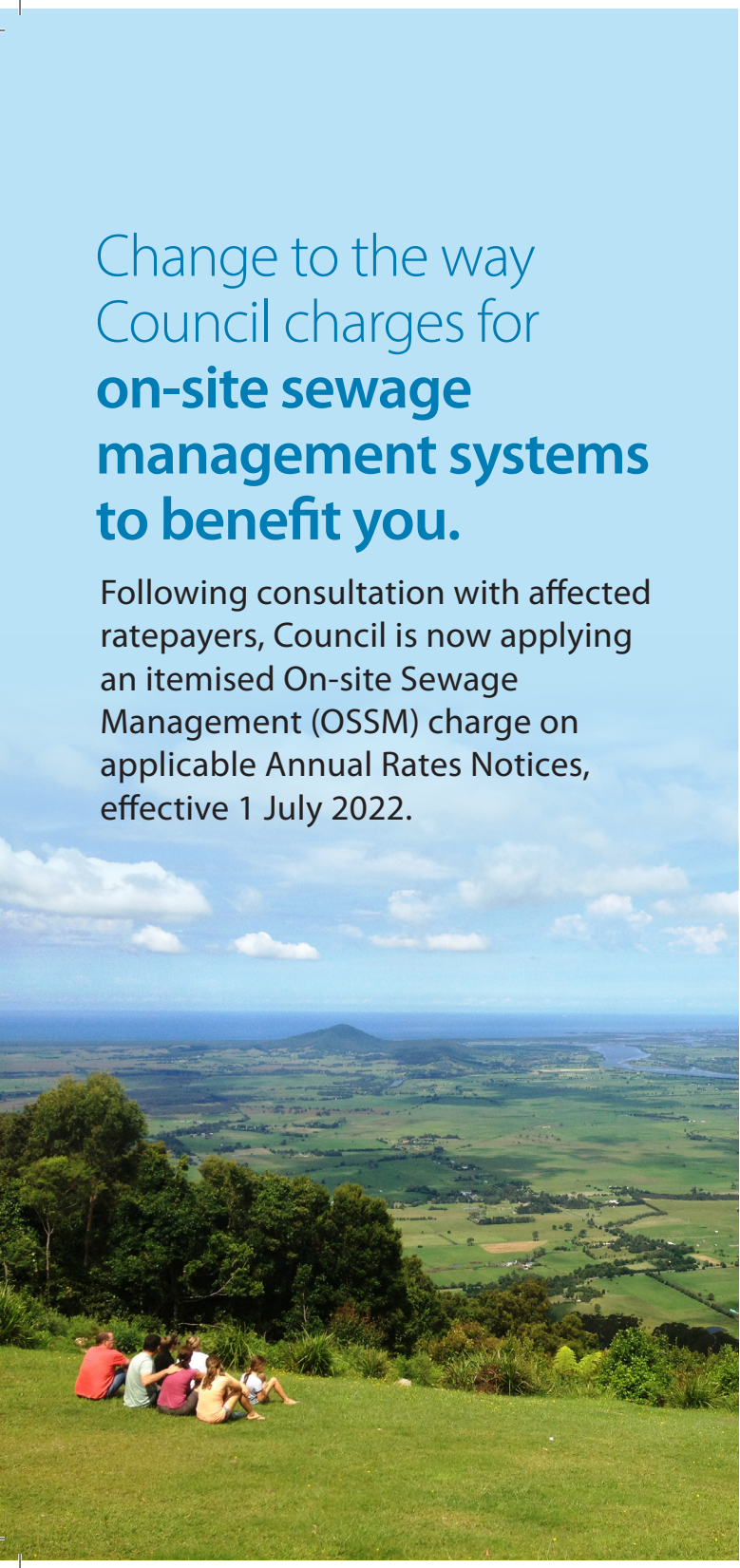


Find out more
FAQs on
Council's Website



On-site Sewage Management Charge



Change to the way Council charges for on-site sewage management systems to benefit you.

Following consultation with affected ratepayers, Council is now applying an itemised On-site Sewage Management (OSSM) charge on applicable Annual Rates Notices, effective 1 July 2022.

On-site Sewage Management (OSSM) charge

Previously, applicants received a payment advice, typically every five years, to renew an ongoing Approval to Operate an OSSM under section (s.) 68 *Local Government (LG) Act 1993*. The former fees have now been effectively spread over five years, and replaced with a smaller, more manageable annual charge reflected in annual rates notices:

- An annual charge may be levied for sewerage services under section (s.) 501 (1) *LG Act 1993*. The charge will be managed in incorporation with rates, facilitating a more efficient processes.
- This is a single charge, as opposed to the former separate administration and inspection components of the previous fees.
- A discount rate for eligible pensioners will be automatically and fairly applied across the Shoalhaven. If pensioner status changes throughout the year, it will be updated the following financial year. The same will apply if a property owner becomes a pensioner.
- A higher charge continues to be applicable to commercial properties and property owners with multiple systems.
- Higher risk OSSMs, such as large systems servicing commercial operations, will still be inspected more frequently. Property owners will be invoiced separately to the Annual Rates Notice for additional inspections completed.



How does this affect me?

As your existing Approval to Operate is due to lapse this financial year, an OSSM charge has been included on your Annual Rates Notice.

What does the OSSM charge cover?

The OSSM charge contributes to the costs relating to the ongoing Approval to Operate an OSSM on your property under s. 68 *LG Act 1993*. The charge also contributes to the management of OSSM systems in the Shoalhaven. This includes system inspections, requiring property owners to meet environmental and health performance standards, providing education to property owners and the community, facilitating the upgrade of systems and enabling a more proactive approach to nullify environmental harm and risk to public health.

How will my Approval to Operate be issued?

Council will issue an Approval to Operate to the current owner(s) of affected properties on an annual basis. When Council is notified of a change of ownership, an approval will be issued in the name of the new owner(s). The approval will be generated and stored electronically at Council. A copy will only be sent to ratepayers upon request.