



**Application for Approval to Operate - On-Site Sewage Management System
Section 68 of the Local Government Act, 1993**

SYSTEM ID NUMBER: (WW number for previously registered systems)

If new system and WW number unknown, relevant DA Number:

ADDRESS WHERE SYSTEM OPERATES:

Property Address:

Lot & DP Number:

USE OF SYSTEM: (please tick appropriate box)

- Residential / Domestic – a system used by up to 10 persons or a system treating up to 2,000 litres of wastewater per day
- Business / Commercial / Industrial

TYPE OF SYSTEM ON-SITE: (please tick appropriate box)

- Septic tank
- Aerated Wastewater Treatment System (AWTS)
- Greywater Treatment Device
- Other (please specify type of system).....

METHOD OF DISPOSING EFFLUENT FROM THE SYSTEM: (please tick appropriate box)

Aboveground Disposal:

- Spray irrigation
- Drip-line irrigation
- Pumpout & disposed offsite

Belowground Disposal:

- Trench
- Subsurface drip
- Other (please specify)

I HEREBY APPLY TO OPERATE AN ON-SITE SEWAGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM ON THE ABOVE PROPERTY:

OWNER NAME/S and SIGNATURES: (If property jointly owned include each person)

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.....
.....

..... DATED

Note: Where an owner is a company, the signature and capacity of an authorised representative (ie. Secretary etc) is required.

On-Site Sewage Management System Approval to Operate – Information Sheet

What is an approval to operate?

Residents in seweraged areas pay for supervision and environmental management of sewage through charges which include load based EPA licence fees and other environmental management costs. However, residents in unsewered areas are required to obtain an Approval to Operate an On-site Sewage Management System (OSMS) relating to the operation of septic tanks, aerated wastewater treatment systems, etc.

Operating a system of sewage management is a prescribed activity under *section 68 of the Local Government Act 1993 and Part 2 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*. This means that an Approval to Operate an OSMS must be obtained from the local Council.

Unlike Council consent for the development of land, Council Approval to Operate an OSMS is personal and does not run with the land. Approval to operate an OSMS is primarily an accountability mechanism between the individual landowner/s and the Council. It is the activity of sewage management, not the facilities, which are the subject of the approval.

Approval to Operate an OSMS requires the landowner/s to take all reasonable steps to minimise transmission of disease, pollution of water and degradation of land as a result of sewage management activities and requires that the landowner/s inform the Council about those activities. The Approval to Operate also contributes to Council's management of the cumulative impact of sewage pollution by providing responsibility for supervision and environmental management. This allows the OSMS program to achieve better control of effluent discharge and downstream water quality, supervision of plumbers and service agents, education programs and practical support to assist landowners.

The Approval to Operate fee is included in your current rates notice.

Is Council approval required for existing systems?

Landowners with any type of existing OSMS are required to obtain a Council operating approval. Councils regulate the installation and operation of OSMS under the *Local Government Act 1993*. Regulations under the Act specify performance standards and require Councils to supervise the operation of OSMS.

Councils have always been responsible for the supervision of OSMS. The introduction of health and environment performance standards and the requirement to obtain an operating approval enable Council's to prevent problems rather than just react to them and mean that Council's can:

- keep householders aware of operating requirements,
- help keep systems well maintained and operating safely,
- monitor and manage the cumulative impact of sewage pollution on the environment, and
- address specific problems before they get out of hand.

Why is an operating approval required for aerated wastewater treatment systems?

Aerated Wastewater Treatment Systems (AWTS) use sensitive biological agents, mechanical systems and chemical processes to produce a higher quality effluent than a standard septic tank. However, aerated systems must be carefully managed and serviced to keep them working well and safely.

Unlike standard septic systems, aerated systems often discharge effluent above ground where it can easily run off into adjoining land and waterways. Should the treatment process fail aerated systems can become serious sewage pollution hazards. Such failures do occur, and may be caused by quite simple factors like using the wrong type of household cleaning agents, leaving the system unattended for extended periods, excess hydraulic loading or depletion of the treatment chemicals. Landowners with aerated systems have to register for Council approval in the same way as other septic system owners.

What Happens if I do not submit the "Approval to Operate" Form

A penalty infringement notice may be issued for operating an OSMS without prior Council approval.