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# Colac Otway Shire Council Domestic Wastewater Management Plan Operational Plan

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Prepared for: Colac Otway Shire Council

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<b>Synopsis:</b>	This Operational Plan has been developed to accompany the Technical Document (2015), which together <del>form</del> <u>forms</u> the Domestic Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP), to identify domestic wastewater management (DWM) issues within the Shire and recommend management actions to ensure potential risks are appropriately managed. A key component of the DWMP is a domestic wastewater management risk assessment and mapping that has been completed for the Shire. This assessment identifies prioritised districts that are in need of improved domestic wastewater management practices. The DWMP also provides technical guidance and a strategy for community education. A framework for the regulation of domestic wastewater management system performance is also provided.				
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## Disclaimer

The information contained in this report is based on independent research undertaken by Jasmin Kable, Zoe Rogers and Mark Saunders of Whitehead & Associates Environmental Consultants Pty Ltd (W&A). To our knowledge, it does not contain any false, misleading or incomplete information. Recommendations are based on an appraisal of the site conditions subject to the limited scope and resources available for this project, and follow relevant industry standards. The work performed by W&A included a limited system audit and site and soil investigation in addition to a desktop review, and the conclusions made in this report are based on the information gained and the assumptions as outlined. Under no circumstances can it be considered that these results represent the actual conditions throughout the entire Shire due to the regional scale of this study.

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## Document Certification

This Domestic Wastewater Management Plan has been prepared following the standards and guidelines set out in the following documents, where applicable:

- EPA Victoria (2013) Code of Practice – *Onsite Wastewater Management*;
- Department of Sustainability and Environment (2012) *Planning permit applications in open, potable water supply catchment areas*;
- EPA Victoria (2003) *State Environmental Protection Policy: Waters of Victoria*;
- EPA Victoria (2002) *State Environmental Protection Policy: Groundwaters of Victoria*;
- Municipal Association of Victoria (2014) *Victoria Land Capability Assessment Framework*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed; and
- AS/NZS 1547:2012 *On-site Domestic Wastewater Management* (Standards Australia / Standards New Zealand, 2012).

To our knowledge, it does not contain any false, misleading or incomplete information. Recommendations are based on an honest appraisal of the sites’ opportunities and constraints, subject to the limited scope and resources available for this project.

## Supporting Author

Supporting technical contribution for this document was provided by Dr. Robert Van de Graaff (Van de Graaff and Associates). Dr. Van de Graaff undertook detailed (field) soil investigation and has provided primary soil data and interpretation which has been utilised in the development of the methodology outlined in this document.

## Executive Summary

Colac Otway Shire Council (COS, the 'Council' or 'Shire') has developed a Domestic Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP) to assist with the efficient and effective management of domestic wastewater within the Shire in a way which will minimise the potential risk posed by domestic effluent upon public health, the physical environment and local receiving environments. COS is committed to the monitoring and management of on-site domestic wastewater management (DWM) systems within the Shire.

Under the provisions of the State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria) (SEPP), local Councils need to develop a DWMP in conjunction with relevant Water Corporations and the community. This DWMP has been prepared to ensure COS meets the requirements of the Minister for Water's Guideline 1 - Planning Permit Applications in Open, Potable Water Supply Catchment Areas (DSE, November 2012) for DWM; to ensure existing and future development does not compromise the Declared Water Supply Catchments (DWSCs, otherwise known as drinking water catchments) and to assist in maintaining a sustainable environment

The DWMP has been prepared to recognise, respond to and link with Council policies and Plans, current legislation and regulations and the relevant direction of State Regulatory Authorities. The DWMP also addresses recent changes in Codes of Practice, Australian Standards and guidelines relating to DWM, and recent advances in technology and management practices.

The DWMP describes the current situation relating to DWM in the Shire and identifies a range of actions Council seeks to implement. The DWMP is comprised of two documents; this Operational Plan, which contains the Action Plan, and legislative controls Council will put in place for the management of domestic wastewater in the Shire; and a Technical Document, which details the derivation of methodology for the Constraint Mapping, Sensitivity Analysis and the individual Locality Reports.

A number of key issues for DWM in COS have been identified:

- There are a number of sensitive catchments (DWSCs) within the Shire and the protection of these areas is important for the supply of potable water, maintenance of public health and the environment;
- Within the DWSCs, development is currently restricted to 1 dwelling per 40 hectares; the implementation of the DWMP by Council will enable Water Corporations to appropriately relax this restriction and assess development at a higher density within these catchments, on a case by case basis;
- Failing DWM systems have the potential to pollute the environment;
- There are a number of significant constraints, e.g. challenging soils, proximity to water bodies and existing small properties/parcels, which limit the effectiveness of DWM systems in some parts of the Shire. To enable improvements to be made in areas where existing DWM systems have historically proved problematic, Council needs to develop strategies to assist DWM system owners to upgrade or replace systems where appropriate;
- Physical environments (including climate patterns) may limit the effectiveness of DWM systems within the Shire and therefore many systems may require a high level of design and management to ensure each DWM system is sustainable; and
- To ensure that DWM systems associated with new development can operate in a sustainable manner, a high level of design and management is required and Council needs to develop policies and procedures to allow development to proceed in a manner which appropriately protects public health and the environment.

The fundamental purpose of any DWMP is the identification and management of the risk from DWM systems to public and environmental health. A comprehensive 56-staged Risk Assessment Framework (RAF) was developed with the aim of quantitatively and qualitatively assessing the consequences of unsewered development. The stages are outlined as follows:

- Stage 1: Data Collection - background information, legislation/regulatory/planning controls, and data collection and pre-processing.
- Stage 2: Data Analysis - development of individual constraint and informative maps for parameters that significantly impact on the degree of sensitivity of any given property/parcel on sustainable DWM.
- Stage 3: Sensitivity Analysis - weighted analysis of individual constraints which determines the final consolidated sensitivity of the unsewered properties/parcels within the Shire, based on an algorithm that takes into account the inter-relationships between the individual constraints.
- StageStages 4 & 5: Procedural - Review requirements for development assessment under Planning Scheme and administrative controls and the management of existing DWM systems.
- Stage 56: Cumulative Risk Analysis - optional component that prepares a semi-quantitative assessment of risk (Cumulative Impact) in a delineated Area-of-Concern (AOC) by comparing the probability of DWM system failure with the properties/parcels ability to contain DWM on-site (Sensitivity).

Taken together, all stages of the Risk Assessment Framework have substantial value as a development assessment tool and provide defensible identification and justification for prioritisation of existing management issues within the Shire. The RAF aims to provide Council with a reasoned and justified tool to prioritise resourcing, oversight and management for DWM systems within the Shire.

The DWMP has collated a substantial amount of information on existing DWM systems and the various environmental and built constraints that substantially impact on DWM outcomes. This information is presented as a series of constraint and thematic (informative and overlay) maps developed using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) which illustrate the significance of each element (slope, soil suitability, proximity to surface water and groundwater, etc.) to DWM within both the Shire as a whole and the targeted localities and associated towns/settlements. Individual constraints have been considered in the light of current standards for DWM as outlined in the Victorian Environment Protection Authority (EPA) current Code of Practice, Australian Standards and other commonly applied industry standards. For unsewered properties/parcels, each constraint is considered on the basis of information supplied by Council or relevant State Government agencies. DWM Sensitivity is described as Low, Moderate, High or Very High depending on the degree of sensitivity the property/parcel presents to DWM.

This information will assist Council to prioritise actions including programmed inspections, education of owners and occupants, the need for and level of land capability assessment and reporting required to support proposals for new DWM systems, and will provide guidance in identifying minimum standards of DWM servicing and appropriate technologies. It will also provide Council with guidance by defining areas where centralised wastewater servicing is most required.

The DWMP presents a prioritised Action Plan for the Shire with proposed timeframes for completion of the various tasks. The Action Plan provides actions which will be implemented to improve the effectiveness of DWM within COS, to protect public and environmental health and to ensure that future development within the Shire is sustainable and protects the sensitive waterways and potable drinking water catchments. The DWMP will also provide a valuable tool for the assessment of planning applications within drinking water catchment areas, all unsewered localities and associated towns/settlements, and direction for owners on the requirements that will need to be met.

The Operational Plan is supported by a more detailed Technical Document which outlines the basis on which the constraint mapping has been developed, presents the individual constraint and thematic maps for both the Shire and individual localities and towns/settlements, and presents minimum DWM treatment system and land application area sizing requirements for compliant sustainable DWM systems. The Technical Document can be obtained by contacting the Health Protection Unit at COS and it is also available on COS's website.

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## Acronyms

AEP	Annual Exceedance Probability
ARI	Annual Recurrence Interval
AHD	Australian Height Datum
AO	Authorised Officer under Environmental Protection Act Division 5 Part IXB (1970)
AWTS	Aerated Wastewater Treatment System
CMA	Catchment Management Authority
COS	Colac Otway Shire Council
DEM	Digital Elevation Model
DEPI	Department of Environment and Primary Industries (now known as DELWP)
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
DIR	Design Irrigation Rate
DLR	Design Loading Rate
DSE	Department of Sustainability and the Environment (former)
DSM	Decentralised Sewage Model
DWM	Domestic Wastewater Management
DWMP	Domestic Wastewater Management Plan
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
GIS	Geographic Information System
GMA	Groundwater Management Area
HPO	Health Protection Officer
LAA	Land Application Area
LCA	Land Capability Assessment
LGA	Local Government Area
LRA	Land Resource Assessment
MAV	Municipal Association of Victoria
PIC	Plumbing Industry Commission
SEPP	State Environment Protection Policy
SWG	Stakeholder Working Group
VCAT	Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal
VVG	Visualising Victoria's Groundwater (Project)
WC	Water Corporation(s)
WMIS	The Victorian Water Measurement Information System
WSPAs	Water Supply Protection Area(s)

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Overview and Objectives

Colac Otway Shire Council (COS, 'the Shire' or 'Council') has a geographic area of approximately 3,433km<sup>2</sup> and a population of approximately 20,973 in 2013 with an estimated growth rate of 1% per annum (Council Plan, 2013-2017). There are approximately 2,850 on-site Domestic Wastewater Management (DWM) systems that Council has record of within the Shire. In addition, there are unsewered commercial (non-domestic) properties/parcels, such as cafes, pubs and dairy farms in the Shire, which are regulated by the EPA and Council. This Domestic Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP) covers the management of DWM systems within the Shire. Figure 1 identifies the unsewered areas of COS that forms the basis for this document.

The management of wastewater within COS is undertaken to protect human health and the environment. The Shire is characterised by towns, rural residential development, farming (including forestry), national parks and forests, and coastline; and includes large areas designated as Declared Water Supply Catchments (DWSCs) (around 30% of the Shire). The protection of surface waters, groundwater and human health are all requirements of the *Environment Protection Act 1970*. Under the provisions of this Act and other legislative guidelines, Councils are required to prepare a DWMP. This DWMP is a revision of the first DWMP (adopted in 2007) for COS since the requirements were prescribed.

This DWMP has been developed in accordance with the requirements of all the legislation and policies as outlined in Section 3, and in particular:

- *Environmental Protection Act, 1970*;
- Ministerial Guidelines for *Planning Permit Applications in Open, Potable Water Supply Catchments*, (DSE, 2012); and
- State Environmental Protection Policy (SEPP) for both Waters of Victoria and Groundwaters of Victoria.

The DWMP addresses the various aspects of wastewater, including its treatment and land application, and the cumulative impacts of DWM systems within DWSCs. The DWMP also addresses how DWM systems are managed in COS, including Permit to Install, use and the upgrade of systems. The ongoing monitoring of DWM system performance assists in the protection of public health and the environment.

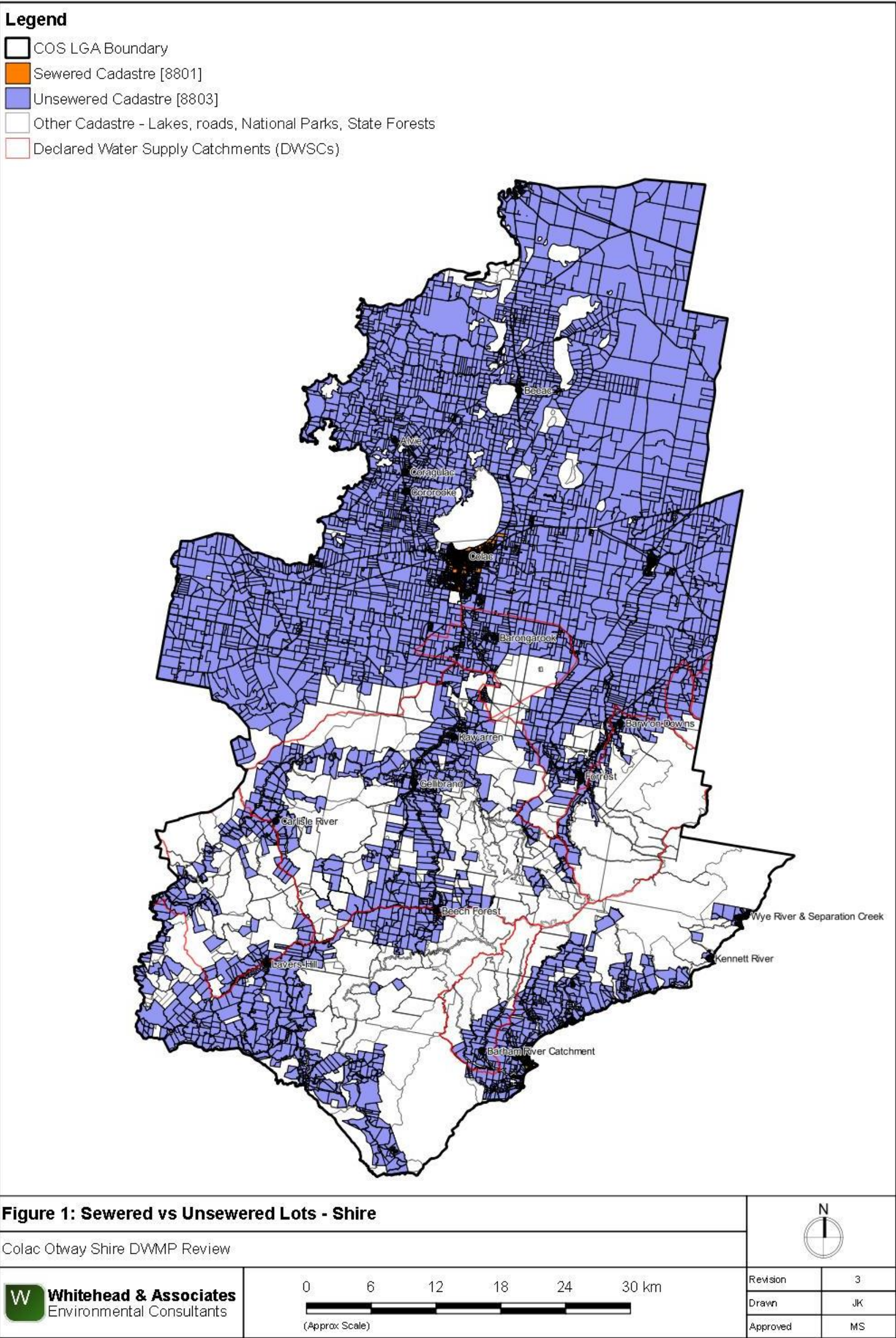
### **The key objectives of this DWMP are as follows:**

- To provide strategic direction for the development and management of wastewater throughout COS;
- To develop a prioritised program of DWM system compliance monitoring (scheduled inspections) by COS Health Protection staff over a five year period;
- To provide guidance to, and the minimum standards for, those preparing Land Capability Assessments within COS for existing and new developments;
- To develop a risk-based decision tool to provide guidance on the development potential of unsewered localities (including the more densely populated 'towns' and 'settlements') within and outside of the DWSCs, with regards to environmental and public health risks from DWM systems;
- To clarify the circumstances in which dwellings can be constructed within DWSCs at a higher density than 1 per 40 hectares;
- To provide greater certainty for landowners about the development potential of their land;

- To provide guidance on appropriate maintenance, modifications and upgrades for under-performing and failing systems throughout the Shire;
- To provide guidance on what types of wastewater treatment and land application systems are appropriate (and inappropriate) for the physical constraints of unsewered localities;
- To provide guidance on appropriate education for DWM system owners and residents of unsewered properties;
- To provide clear direction for the assessment of new and modified DWM system applications and their ongoing compliance with legislative requirements; and
- To specify actions to achieve these objectives to ensure the DWMP delivers demonstrable results.

This Operational Plan forms the major component of this DWMP, and outlines the ongoing management of DWM systems within COS by Council staff, working with owners and residents. The Operational Plan is supported by the Technical Document which provides detail on the regulatory framework for DWM and the methodology used to generate the DWM constraint mapping and corresponding Sensitivity Analysis of the Shire and individual Locality Reports.





## 1.2 Development of the DWMP

All Councils within Victoria are required to prepare a municipal DWMP. A DWMP is a planning and management document that provides a mechanism for the development, implementation and review of programs to protect public health, the local environment and local amenity. The DWMP establishes Council's policy on and commitment to sustainable ongoing wastewater management and its programs for compliance and enforcement. The DWMP establishes processes to ensure early and comprehensive consideration of wastewater management in the planning cycle and Council's responsibility for the monitoring and compliance of systems.

The DWMP assists landowners and Council staff to understand the requirements for development within the Shire in respect of DWM. With the information provided by the DWMP Council staff will be able to assist landowners and developers to determine the level of assessment that is required for a proposed development. The detailed risk-based assessments of unsewered localities and towns/settlements included in the DWMP equips Council staff to assess existing and proposed DWM systems within the Shire, with the overarching objective of improving wastewater management into the future. Council staff will also be able to assess the capacity of land to manage wastewater for future development using the risk assessment framework.

A Stakeholder Working Group (SWG) was established to oversee the project, comprising officers from Council, Barwon Water, Wannon Water, Southern Rural Water, EPA Victoria, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), Corangamite Catchment Management Authority and the Department of Premier and Cabinet. An inception meeting and a preliminary risk assessment workshop was held at the outset of the project to determine the priority regions and issues, with regards to DWM within COS, to address within the revision of the DWMP and establish the methodology of the risk assessment framework.

Ongoing consultation between the Stakeholder Working Group and the consultant, including three face-to-face meetings, occurred throughout the development of the DWMP, which has resulted in a robust Plan which is accountable and achievable.

~~In accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy (2010), a Community Engagement Strategy was developed for the project and consultation was undertaken with local communities and key stakeholders throughout the Shire. Council advertised the review of the DWMP on its website and conducted community consultation meetings, held during the week-long field investigations undertaken by Consultant staff from the 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2014. The meetings took place from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> September 2014 in Colac, Beech Forest and Gellibrand. Consultant staff, as well as representatives from Council and Wannon Water, was present at these community meetings.~~

The field investigations undertaken by Consultant staff involved an audit of a representative sample of approximately 10% of existing on-site wastewater management systems and soil investigations in towns/settlements selected by the Stakeholder Working Group. The purpose of the investigations was to:

- confirm the nature and extent of the environmental and public health impacts associated with the existing wastewater management within the towns/settlements;
- identify the areas that may not need improvement if domestic wastewater management systems are operating effectively; and
- guide the Land Capability Assessment process to determine the capability of vacant lands within and around the towns/settlements, in terms of their suitability for sustainable on-site land application of effluent.

Summaries of the field assessment results are included in the Locality Reports included in Appendix B of the Technical Report.



COS understands the importance of community consultation and endeavours to ensure that the aims and outcomes of the DWMP are shared with the community, allowing opportunities for feedback and discussion.

Council advertised the review of the DWMP on its website and conducted community consultation meetings, held during the week-long field investigations undertaken by Consultant staff from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> of September 2014. The meetings took place at locations in Colac, Beech Forest and Gellibrand. Consultant staff and representatives from Council and Wannon Water were present at these meetings.

Feedback from members of the community from ~~the~~this initial round of consultation was reviewed and incorporated into the DWMP where possible. The concerns and suggestions most commonly raised during the community consultation process are listed as follows:

- Uncertainty about planning processes and time delays for obtaining development approvals, particularly for new development on small properties/parcels in the DWSCs.
- Uncertainty about Council and Water Corporations' requirements for new and upgraded DWMs, particularly within the DWSCs.
- Questioning the fairness of owners having to forgo potential property/parcel development or sales opportunities for small or non-compliant properties/parcels in the DWSCs (i.e. regulatory controls and expectations change between buying and developing or selling).
- The view that large, rural properties do not pose a threat to drinking water quality and should be allowed to utilise primary treatment DWM systems.

~~The draft DWMP will be updated following public exhibition of the Plan. Further liaison will also be carried out during this period with all relevant Water Corporations, neighbouring Councils and the EPA.~~

Public exhibition of the Draft DWMP occurred between 22 July 2015 and 28 September 2015. The DWMP was advertised via the following methods: mail out to owners of all of the unsewered properties/parcels within the Shire, notices in the Colac Herald newspaper and local news sheets, notices in local shops in small localities, a fact sheet developed, content on the Council website, media release, radio interview, TV interview (WIN TV) and Council's Facebook page.

A further round of 'drop-in' information sessions were conducted during the public exhibition period between 21-22 August 2015 at Colac, Lavers Hill, Beech Forest and Gellibrand. The meetings were collectively attended by approximately 60 interested parties, with the following comments and suggestions most commonly raised:

- Clarification of the Lot Sensitivity rating for individual properties and the associated LCA requirements;
- Uncertainty regarding the nature and intent of 'compliance monitoring' programs, in particular how under-performing systems will be addressed;
- Questions regarding possible solutions (and associated costs) for DWM system combinations on the Otway Ridge;
- Concerns regarding the applicability of the DWMP to 'other' land use activities (i.e. agriculture);
- Concerns about the performance and accountability of non-domestic (commercial) systems on the local environment and how the DWMP will address those; and
- Questions about possible funding measures/support for improving DWM, particularly in older homes with lower disposable incomes.



Additionally, a targeted workshop was held with LCA assessors during the public exhibition period on 21 August 2015. Council coordinated the invitation of local practitioners, with seven (7) taking the opportunity to attend on the day. The workshops focussed on describing and demonstrating the Risk Assessment Framework (RAF) methodology, particularly the derivation of individual Lot Sensitivity ratings. Practitioners were also briefed on the new (minimum) requirements for LCAs (site and soil investigation and DWM design) as per the draft DWMP. There were a total of six (6) submissions received by Council during the public exhibition period, all of which were noted and formally acknowledged. All feedback received during the public exhibition period was reviewed and either incorporated into, or used to inform the DWMP, where appropriate. There were no significant changes to arise from these submissions.

#### **1.2.1 Guidelines – Planning Permit Applications in Open, Potable Water Supply Catchment Areas (DSE, 2012)**

These Guidelines outline the requirements for development in declared water supply catchment areas (DWSC), where a planning permit is required to use land for a dwelling or to subdivide land, or to develop land pursuant to a schedule to the Environmental Significance Overlay that has a catchment or water quality protection as an object.

Guideline 1 requires that the density of dwellings should be no greater than one dwelling per 40 hectares and each property/parcel created in a subdivision should be at least 40 hectares in area. The dwelling density is established by calculating the number of dwellings within a one kilometre radius of the site of the proposed dwelling. The density requirement of Guideline 1 does not apply where:

- Category 1: A permit is not required (i.e. outside of the DWSC/Environmental Significance Overlay);
- Category 2: If the dwelling is connected to reticulated sewerage;
- Category 3: If the development is consistent with a Catchment Policy that has been prepared for the catchment and endorsed by the relevant Water Corporation following consultation with relevant stakeholders; and
- Category 4: The Water Corporation is satisfied that Council has prepared, adopted and is implementing a DWMP in accordance with DWMP requirements.

The preparation and implementation of this DWMP and Action Plan will allow COS to demonstrate that it has fulfilled the requirements of Ministerial Guideline 1. Once fulfilled, the Water Corporations have the ability to consider applications that would result in a higher density of development than would otherwise be permitted by Guideline 1 (currently constrained to a density of 1 in 40 ha). In order to relax this density requirement, all conditions of Guideline 1, as listed below, are to be met:

- The minimum lot size area specified in the zone for subdivision is met in respect of each lot; (for subdivision applications only);
- The Water Corporation is satisfied that the Council has prepared, adopted and is implementing a DWMP in accordance with the DWMP requirements; and
- The proposal does not present an unacceptable risk to the catchment having regard to:
  - a. the proximity and connectivity of the proposal site to a waterway or a potable water supply source (including reservoir);
  - b. the slope of the land;
  - c. the quality of the soil;
  - d. the existing lot and dwelling pattern in the vicinity of the site;

- e. the existing condition of the catchment and evidence of unacceptable water quality impacts;
- f. ~~the quality of the soil;~~
- g. ~~the slope of the land;~~
- h. the link between the proposal and the use of the land for a productive agricultural purpose;
- i. ~~the existing lot and dwelling pattern in the vicinity of the site;~~
- j. any site remediation and/or improvement works that form part of the application; and
- k. the intensity or size of the development or use proposed and the amount of run-off that is likely to be generated.

~~Note: this requires analysis in addition to a Land Capability Assessment (LCA) required pursuant to Guideline 2: Effluent Disposal and septic tanks system maintenance (DSE, 2012).~~

~~Items a-c are addressed through the Sensitivity Analysis as detailed in Section 4 of this DWMP. Items d-e may be addressed through the Cumulative Impact Assessment component of the RAF (Stage 6) or other methods as determined by the Council or Water Corporation. The remaining items (f-h) will be dealt with under other respective planning controls.~~

The preparation, adoption and implementation of a DWMP is required for the relaxation of Guideline 1. Many of the items for compliance with Guideline 1 will form part of the Operational Plan of this DWMP. These actions are identified in the DWMP and will result in the adoption of the DWMP by Council, and endorsement by the relevant stakeholders.

**Table 1** outlines how this will be achieved.

For the DWMP to be considered for endorsement by the Water Corporations, COS is also required to demonstrate that suitable resourcing for implementation, including monitoring, enforcement, review and auditing, is available.

A working group comprising Council and Water Corporation delegates will be formed to discuss DWM system applications, ensure that requests for information remain uniform, and to help ensure the implementation of this plan.

Co-ordination of Council and Water Corporations regarding the effective implementation of the DWMP is included in the Action Plan (Section 13):

- ✓ Action 18 – Officers from Council and the water corporations to meet 2-3 times a year to ensure the effective management of planning referral processes under the DWMP.

Table 1: Guideline 1 Requirements

Action	Details	Completed within this DWMP	Comments/Reference
The DWMP must be prepared or reviewed in consultation with all relevant stakeholders.	Other local governments with which catchments are shared	Yes	Liaison with abutting Councils <del>will be</del> undertaken during the public exhibition period. Detailed in Section 1.2 of the Operational Plan.
	EPA	Yes	A representative from the EPA was a part of the working group. All documentation relating to the preparation of the DWMP was provided to the EPA, which was also invited to comment on all drafts developed. Detailed in Section 1.2 of the Operational Plan.
	Local Water Corporations	Yes	This DWMP was prepared and progressively reviewed by a working group that included representatives from Barwon Water, Wannon Water, Southern Rural Water and the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority. All documentation relating to the preparation of the DWMP was provided to the Water Corporations, which were also invited to comment on all drafts developed. Detailed in Section 1.2 of the Operational Plan.
The DWMP must comprise a strategy including timelines and priorities to:	Prevent discharge of wastewater beyond lot boundaries	Yes	Assessment of DWM sensitivity and assessment protocols to ensure best possible DWM system is installed. Section 6 outlines the responsibilities of property/parcel owner's, LCA assessors and Council with regards to effective DWM system design, installation and maintenance. Continual education of the community as per Action 13. All properties/parcels will follow the LCA procedure outlined in Section 4.2 of the Operational Plan for their given Sensitivity Rating.
	Prevent individual and cumulative impacts on groundwater and surface water beneficial uses	Yes	Assessment of DWM sensitivity and assessment protocols to ensure best possible DWM system is installed. Particular considerations to slope, soil, useable lot area and climate have been addressed within the Sensitivity Analysis. Section 4 of the Operational Plan details the methodology and results of the Sensitivity Analysis for each property/parcel within the Shire as well as providing a tool to assess the cumulative impact of DWM systems within particular areas of concern, i.e. within a sub-catchment (Stage <del>56</del> ).
The DWMP must provide for:	Effective monitoring of the condition of DWM systems, including compliance with	Yes	Ongoing. Improvement of data management system to allow for effective management of existing permits and conditions. Targeted <u>audit of systems for performance and compliance</u> <del>system audit</del> to be undertaken as a part of the Action Plan. Detailed in

Action	Details	Completed within this DWMP	Comments/Reference
	permit conditions		Sections 7 and 8.
	The results of monitoring provided to stakeholders	Yes	Ongoing – annually (on date of DWMP Adoption). Report shall include summary of systems inspected, risk rating of systems, and results of any recommended upgrade works or compliance requirements. Detailed in Actions 15b and 17 a, b, and c.
	Enforce action where non-compliance is identified	Yes	Ongoing – It has been shown in the inspection program that compliance <u>and improvements in performance</u> can be achieved without taking enforcement action in the majority of cases; however, Section 8 outlines enforcement actions for ongoing <del>non-compliance-poor performance of systems</del> . Council also has <del>compliance response</del> escalation points available <del>for it to</del> <u>address system under-performance, with responses commensurate to level of non-compliance the risk posed by poorly performing systems</u> (see Section 8.4.1).
	A process review and update of the DWMP every five (5) years	Pending - 2020	Mid-yearly review of the DWMP proposed for 2020. A 2017 review of the implementation of the DWMP will ensure the DWMP is on track and functioning. Detailed in Action 17c.
	Independent audit by an accredited auditor of the implementation of the DWMP, monitoring and enforcement every three (3) years	Pending - 2018	Audit to ensure that the work undertaken is done so in accordance with the DWMP. Detailed in Action 17b and c, and 15 a and b.
	The results of the audit is to be provided to all stakeholders as soon as possible after the audit	Pending- 2018	Results of the audit will be provided to all stakeholders for review after the audit.
	COS is required to demonstrate that suitable resourcing for implementation, including monitoring, enforcement, review and audit is in place	Yes	This is detailed in Section 7 and of the DWMP and the Action Plan (Section 13).

### 1.3 Previous Reports and Plans

This DWMP is a revision of Council's 2007 DWMP, which in turn expanded on the 2002 Wastewater Management Strategy. Data from system inspections informed the previous reports and has been added to this Plan. Additionally, several detailed investigations in localities and towns/settlements have been carried out over the past decade, which also inform this DWMP.

#### 1.3.1 Evaluation of 2007 DWMP

The COS (2007) DWMP was a ~~redraft~~<sup>re-draft</sup> of the COS (2002) Wastewater Management Strategy. The COS (2002) Wastewater Management Strategy incorporated an audit of septic tank systems throughout the Shire, with subsequent Issue Papers being derived from the locality and town/settlements assessments by Council staff.

The audit of the septic tank systems indicated that at least 30% of properties were discharging sand filter and AWTS effluent and sullage offsite. It is reasonable to suggest that the majority of systems may be defective at some point in time, as the sullage was untreated and systems were not regularly checked. Inspection of open drains and streams in inland towns/settlements indicated that discharge of sullage water was causing nuisance conditions and environmental damage. In some areas, sullage water was ponding in open street drains causing excessive weed growth, odour problems and mosquito breeding. It was also apparent, through observations and water testing, that sullage water was polluting streams and causing unsightly conditions. A summary of the audit of DWM systems undertaken in 2002 is provided in the 2007 COS DWMP (pp.42).

The towns that were identified during the audit as having the highest priority to improve wastewater management were Wye River, Separation Creek, Kennett River and Birregurra; Forrest, Cressy and Gellibrand were also assessed as part of the Issue Paper assessments.

The results of the COS (2002) Wastewater Management Strategy assisted with future planning and directed sewer preferences for the targeted towns. Birregurra and Skenes Creek have since been sewered, but Wye River and Separation Creek were found to not be suitable for sewer due to the heavily vegetated steep sloping topography and significant land instability (landslip risk). Consultants (SKM) were engaged by Barwon Water to assess the impact of wastewater on local estuaries, with the resultant report (2013-2014) detailing the results.

The COS (2007) DWMP outlined a number of ~~actions that were~~ recommended <sup>actions</sup> to be undertaken for improved DWM within the Shire. A number of the actions were completed and many are in progress. All actions which were not implemented from the (COS) 2007 Operational Plan have been reassessed for their relevance and included in the current Operational Plan where appropriate. Some actions are ongoing and have also been included in the revised Operational Plan as items which require continuing undertakings. Those actions which were not undertaken or implemented in the COS (2007) Operational Plan are detailed in Table 2 below.

Many of the actions were not undertaken due to resource or time limitations, or they required further actions and Council approval.

**Table 2: COS (2007) DWMP Actions not Completed at August 2014**

<b>DWMP Item</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>DWMP 2015</b>
Legislation/ Codes of Practice	Stipulate the information that should be included in assessments.	Informal.	Policies and Procedures to be documented.
Education Program	<p>Education kit for homeowner on the proper use and maintenance of septic tank systems. This should include statements/information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The vegetation that is suitable to plant around septic tank systems;</li> <li>• The things that go wrong when owners attempt to repair or upgrade systems without reference to experienced drainers/plumbers and Council;</li> <li>• A notice indicating that systems cannot be altered without Council's consent and a suggestion that they always contact Council before undertaking any works other than basic repairs on their systems;</li> <li>• A suggestion that homeowners self-regulate or take positive action. For example, advising owners that it is not acceptable to discharge wastewater onto neighbouring properties and asking them to seek Council advice as to what to do to rectify the problem. Another example, would be to ask homeowners that discharge greywater off site to consult with Council about possible methods of disposal;</li> <li>• Advice to owners of treatment plants that they must comply with the conditions of the permit to use with respect to quarterly maintenance tests and annual effluent tests.</li> </ul>	In Progress: 2 x brochures; information on Council website.	Council to revise existing educational materials (print and web-based) to reflect DWMP and current best practice.
	Meet owners informally on site to explain the operation of and how to best maintain their systems.	Informal (during inspections)	Inspections procedures documented.
	Conduct an annual forum with plumbers, treatment plant installers, maintenance contractors, etc. to	Not Actioned.	Annual briefing for all DWM professionals

DWMP Item	Recommendation	Status	DWMP 2015
	discuss relevant waste management issues.		regarding the 2015 DWMP.
	Investigate the best mechanism of advising prospective purchasers of unsewered properties of the implications of the lot being unsewered; e.g. maintenance of septic tank system, potential restriction on development, etc.	Not Actioned.	Broad public education program across Shire, including potential owners of DWM homes. All educational material to be provided on website.
Monitoring and maintenance	<p>Introduce a monitoring program of septic tank systems. Special attention should be paid to septic tank systems that are located in water catchment areas, close to waterways and groundwater supplies. This monitoring program should involve the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular and random measurement of septic tank sludge levels;</li> <li>• Inspection of systems to ensure that tanks, pits, pumps etc. are in good working order;</li> <li>• Inspection of systems to ensure that they are operating properly and in accordance with their permits to use;</li> <li>• Ensuring owners of treatment plants submit their quarterly maintenance reports and undertake annual tests of effluent quality. Carefully reviewing these reports and taking action where appropriate;</li> <li>• Random testing of the sand filter effluent. Carefully reviewing the test results and taking appropriate action;</li> <li>• Random onsite inspection of septic tank systems. Mapping of systems using GPS and requesting owners to rectify defects/failing systems; and</li> <li>• A water sampling program.</li> </ul>	Informal (e.g. in response to complaints); Water sampling program in progress.	Risk-based Compliance Monitoring Program documented, to be finalised and implemented by Council officers.
Localities and Towns/Settlements	Conduct community consultation around the draft Issues Papers prior to presenting a report to Council for endorsement.	Not Actioned.	Comprehensive community engagement in preparation of DWMP.

DWMP Item	Recommendation	Status	DWMP 2015
	Develop domestic wastewater management plans for Cressy, Gellibrand, Beeac, Forrest, and other smaller localities and towns/settlements. Define minimum standards for domestic wastewater treatment and <del>disposal</del> dispersal systems and procedures for upgrading systems. Particularly focus on developing specific strategies for reducing and improving the quality of off-site discharge of wastewater; water reuse, water conservation, kitchen waste to septic system, more regular emptying of grease traps, and installation of grease traps. Involve the communities in these processes.	Not Actioned.	Individual Locality Reports for targeted localities and towns/settlements - define minimum standards for DWM systems. Educational program to improve owner understanding and maintenance of DWM systems.
	Identify the vacant blocks in each locality which are unsuitable for development. Give consideration as to what action should be taken with respect to these blocks; advising the owners, requiring consolidation with adjacent blocks prior to development, changing the zoning of the blocks.	Not Actioned.	Risk Assessment and Constraint Maps identify DWM risks for all properties/parcels in each locality and town/settlement.
	Investigate the merits of advising owners of developed properties that would be difficult to further develop from a wastewater perspective of the limitations of their properties.	Not Actioned.	Policies and Procedures to be documented and publicly promoted.
Planning	Introduce a minimum lot size for developments and subdivisions in unsewered towns/settlements.	Not Actioned.	Risk Assessment and Constraints Maps.
	Ensure that Councils' planning processes, planning scheme, local structure plans and neighbourhood character studies take into consideration the relevant findings of this plan.	In Progress.	Brief Planning staff on DWMP; DWM register to link with property/planning records; Small Town Plans to be developed for Alvie, Beeac and Cororooke (as identified in the Strategic Planning Work Program).
Funding	Investigate the feasibility of introducing a special charge to fund the activities recommended in this plan.	Not Actioned.	Recommend this is considered by Council.
Reviewing	Undertake minor and major reviews of this plan on a regular basis.	Not Actioned.	Review timeline documented.



## 1.4 Implementation and Review

The effectiveness of the DWMP and the Risk-based Compliance Monitoring Program will depend on the ability of Council to implement the Action Plan (Section 13) and the monitoring program. The implementation of the 5 year Risk-based Compliance Monitoring Program (refer to Section 7.4) will require Health Protection Unit staff to undertake regular system inspections on a priority basis, to update and maintain databases, and to prepare compliance plans and reports. COS will be required to resource the equivalent of one to two staff members (approximately 364 working days over 3 years for the targeted audits and 0.5-1.0 fulltime equivalent (FTE) for ongoing monitoring of systems) to prepare and undertake this program and allocations within the Council budget will need to be made to accommodate this program. System inspections can take more than an hour to complete (not including travel and record keeping) and can require follow-up inspections and education of system owners. The detailed program, including identifying priorities and scheduling, will need to be prepared by the Health Protection Unit prior to commencement of the DWMP, using the outline of the program presented in Section 7.4 of this Operational Plan.

In addition, staff must be trained in onsite wastewater assessment and be familiar with plumbing requirements to ensure compliance with repair and/or upgrade orders that can be made for systems under the program. Follow-up visits to properties to ensure compliance are likely to be required.

The SEPP requires that the DWMP is independently audited every three years (Refer Section 13 Action No. 18c) so as to ensure the DWMP is being implemented appropriately. Resource funding and time allocation must be made by Council to undertake this review.

### 1.4.1 Monitoring and Reporting

The effectiveness of the DWMP will be measured by a comprehensive monitoring and reporting process. Further to the requirements in the SEPP, Council will monitor and report annually to the Water Corporations (Refer Section 13, Action 18b) on a range of performance indicators listed in this DWMP, including but not limited to:

- the number of complaints about poorly functioning DWM systems;
- the number of system inspections for each risk category;
- the number of systems needing rectification (following inspection);
- the number of systems rectified;
- the number of systems still needing rectification; and
- the assessment of the results of surface and/or groundwater quality monitoring in respect to DWM and its potential impacts on water quality;

This reporting will not only indicate the progress of Operational Plan implementation, but it will also provide an indication of the effectiveness of the actions to improve environmental and public health and cumulative DWM risk across the Shire.

## 2 Overview of Domestic Wastewater Management

### 2.1 What is Wastewater?

Wastewater is water-borne waste material and includes all normal wastes from residences, as well as many forms of waste matter from other establishments. Domestic wastewater is derived from household waste streams: kitchen; bathroom (basin, bath and shower); laundry and toilet. Industrial and commercial wastewater varies widely in character and often requires specialised treatment processes as it may contain substances that are harmful to the biological processes utilised for treatment processes. Domestic wastewater is commonly described in these three forms:

- Blackwater – “water grossly contaminated with human excreta” e.g. toilet water, composting toilet leachate;
- Greywater – “water that is contaminated by but does not contain human excreta” e.g. kitchen, bath and laundry water. Also referred to as ‘sullage’; and
- Combined – “a combination of both black and grey water.”

Domestic wastewater quality can vary greatly due to numerous factors; however Table 3 outlines typical values for domestic wastewater quality parameters.

**Table 3: Typical Domestic Wastewater and Septic Effluent Quality<sup>1</sup>**

Parameter (mg/L)	Untreated Wastewater	Septic Effluent
Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD <sub>5</sub> )	150-300	100-200
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	150-300	20-100
Ammonium (NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> )	~10	~40
Organic Nitrogen	~30	~15
Ammonia (NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> )	4-13	<1
Ortho Phosphate	6-10	10-15
Organic Phosphorus	4-15	<4

## 2.2 The Historical Context

Historically the management of domestic wastewater systems, throughout Victoria, has been difficult. Local Councils are the regulatory authority for DWM and have generally been limited by time and financial support from implementing effective DWMPs. Many Councils' throughout Victoria (and Australia) have previously provided very limited programs for DWM, focusing on an approval scheme for new systems and a basic system monitoring program, as time permits. There are limited cost recovery options for Councils to monitor increasingly complex and larger numbers of systems as the peri-urban areas experience rapid growth throughout Victoria. There is increasing pressure on all Councils within Victoria to improve DWM so that existing and future development does not impact on public health and the environment.

## 2.3 Wastewater Treatment

Wastewater is typically managed in urban environments in a community sewerage system, with treatment at a centralised wastewater treatment plant with disposal via discharge to waterways or land application. In areas where a centralised sewerage system cannot be provided, wastewater is managed on-site at each individual property/parcel. On-site domestic wastewater is managed by a variety of treatment systems, including but not limited to:

- Septic Tanks;
- Aerated Wastewater Treatment Systems;
- Wet Composting Systems;

<sup>1</sup> Information collated from a range of sources including AS1546.1:2008, AS1547:2012, EPA Publication 760 (2002), NRMCC (2006) and NSW DLG (1998). Note all concentrations are highly variable.

- Sand Filters; and
- Textile (fabric) Filters.

Appendix A provides detailed information about treatment systems. Following treatment, the effluent is then either ~~disposed of~~~~dispersed~~ or reused within the boundaries of the property/parcel. The type of ~~disposal~~~~dispersal~~ or reuse system depends on the type of treatment system and the quality of effluent (primary or secondary).

Current best-practice is for effluent to be treated to a secondary standard or better, particularly within the DWSCs. Any variations to this must be provided with detailed evidence and explanations to demonstrate its suitability. Most systems apply effluent within the soil profile in a dedicated area on the property/parcel (often referred to as the Land Application Area or the ~~disposal~~~~dispersal~~ area). Highly treated and disinfected greywater can be used internally for toilet flushing and cold water supply to the laundry; however such systems are not common due to relatively high costs. Further details on land application systems are provided below.

## 2.4 Land Application of Treated Effluent

There are a range of effluent ~~disposal~~~~dispersal~~ or reuse systems that apply effluent to the soil profile. Systems that are suitable for primary-treated effluent (from septic tanks and wet composting systems) include:

- Conventional Absorption Trenches and Beds;
- Evapotranspiration-Absorption (ETA) Trenches and Beds;
- Modified ETA Trenches and Beds – such as ‘Wick Trenches’ and modified pipe systems;
- Wisconsin or Sand Mounds; and
- Low Pressure Effluent Distribution (LPED).

Systems that are suitable for secondary-treated and disinfected effluent (from accredited secondary treatment systems only) include:

- All of the above systems suitable for primary effluent (although less commonly used);
- Surface spray or drip irrigation;
- Covered surface drip irrigation; and
- Subsurface drip irrigation.

Appendix A provides detailed information about land application systems.

## 2.5 Environmental & Health Risks of Domestic Wastewater Management

Domestic wastewater can be highly variable in quantity and quality, which can impact on the performance of DWM treatment systems. Primary treatment in septic tank systems relies on the anaerobic breakdown of organic matter by microbes and the settling of solids. Shock loads or biocide use within the home can impact on the ability of these microbes to treat the wastewater and solids passing through the first treatment stage, resulting in poor quality of effluent being discharged to the environment.

DWM system failures are most often a result of poor system design, poor installation practices, inadequate maintenance and sometimes insufficient land area, all of which contribute to potential public and environmental health impacts. These are discussed below.

### 2.5.1 Human Health

The principal groups of organisms found in natural waters and wastewater include: bacteria, fungi, protozoa, rotifers, algae and viruses. Not all of these pose potential human and public

health risks. Organisms with the potential to pose health risks to humans are known as “pathogenic” organisms and may be classified into three broad categories:

1. **Bacteria** – domestic wastewater contains a wide variety and concentration of pathogenic and non-pathogenic bacteria. There are many waterborne infectious diseases e.g. typhoid and cholera. Infectious doses of disease causing bacteria in wastewater can lead to illness. Testing for pathogens is difficult and expensive, therefore indicator bacteria from the intestinal tract of uninfected humans and warm blooded animals is used; for example coliform bacteria such as *Escherichia coli* are used as an indicator of potential pathogenic/faecal contamination in water.
2. **Parasites** – (Protozoa and Helminths). The two dominant protozoan parasites of concern in the treatment of wastewater are:
  - o *Cryptosporidium*; and
  - o *Giardia*.

These are both resistant to standard disinfection methods and pose considerable risk to susceptible members of the community (children, elderly and immune-compromised). Helminths or intestinal worms, e.g. tapeworms and roundworms, are also commonly found in wastewater. These release millions of environmentally resilient eggs throughout their lifespan.

3. **Viruses** – contamination of domestic wastewater by viruses may lead to major outbreaks, such as Hepatitis A (referred to as infectious hepatitis), which is the most dominant waterborne virus. Polio Virus is also transmitted in wastewater. Viruses can cause widespread illness in epidemic patterns. Viruses are more common and diverse than bacteria in the aquatic environment.

The ability of pathogens to survive in the environment varies substantially, depending on environmental conditions and the type and life-stage of the organism. Some organisms produce highly resilient spores which can persist in unfavourable conditions for long time periods and can be transported large distances in water and groundwater.

Furthermore, nitrogen in the form of nitrate is highly mobile in the soil/water environment and can also be a potential public health risk if exposure is high (however this has not been identified as a particular risk for the relatively low-density towns of regional Australia).

Exposure to any of the above, via direct or indirect contact with wastewater, poses a human health risk.

### 2.5.2 Environmental

Nutrients, along with trace quantities of other elements, are essential for biological growth. Phosphorus (P) and Nitrogen (N) are the principal nutrients of concern with regard to DWM systems and are present in a range of compounds in raw wastewater and treated effluent. In excess, phosphate and nitrate encourage vigorous growth of algae and aquatic plants in surface water systems, which can lead to ecological disruptions and reduced water quality. Poor-quality raw supply water is more difficult and costly to treat for drinking water purposes, compared to water taken from catchments where pollution inputs are reduced.

### 2.5.3 Social

The poor management of DWM systems has potential financial implications where it may adversely impact on drinking water supplies by contamination. Where DWM systems cause pollution from effluent discharges to waterways, there is a requirement for a higher level of treatment of drinking water prior to distribution. Where failing DWM systems cause odours or discharge into adjoining properties, there is an adverse impact on public amenity and these may cause a nuisance. There are financial implications for owners who have a failing DWM system and are required to complete upgrade works. New systems can be expensive and some owners

may not have the finances to undertake works immediately, resulting in continuing system failures.

#### 2.5.4 Summary

Table 4 below summarises the risks common to all DWM systems (treatment and land application components). The operation of a large number of DWM systems within a catchment may have long term negative and cumulative impacts on that particular area and on downstream water bodies. However, where systems are correctly designed, installed and managed (including upgrades to existing systems where necessary), the risks of cumulative impacts to the downstream environment are substantially reduced. As such, the sustainable density of DWM systems is higher when systems are operating optimally, compared to when a proportion (or all) systems are underperforming or failing in some way.

**Table 4: Health and Environmental Risks of DWM Systems**

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Typical Cause</b>	<b>Potential Impacts</b>
Ineffective regulation	Lack of staff/ time	Environmental, Health and Social
Off-site discharge	Failing/ poorly managed/ damaged/ unapproved treatment and/or land application system(s)/ previous approved practices for off-site discharges	Environmental, Health and Social
Disinfection failure	No disinfection (chlorine)/ poor upstream treatment	Health
Failure of treatment system	Lack of maintenance/ poor installation/ age of system	Environmental, Health and Social
Surcharge from land application area	Peak loads/ overload of system/ failure of land application system / undersized or poorly designed system	Environmental, Health and Social
Failure of land application system	Clogging layer in trenches or beds/ broken pipes/ inappropriate hydraulics	Environmental, Health and Social
Human contact with effluent	Poor OH&S in maintenance/ inappropriate disposal methods	Health and Social
Owner ignorance	Lack of knowledge of system	Environmental, Health and Social
Damage to land application system	Access by vehicles or stock/ inappropriate boundaries	Health and Social
Odour	Inadequate treatment in systems/ mechanical fault	Social
Groundwater contamination	Effluent <del>disposal</del> <b>dispersal</b> area overloaded (undersized and/or failing)	Environmental, Health and Social
Surface water contamination	Surface runoff of effluent in area with reduced setback distance buffers/ recharge from contaminated GW	Environmental, Health and Social

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Typical Cause</b>	<b>Potential Impacts</b>
Human or animal disease outbreak	Direct or indirect pathogen exposure due to any of above causes	Health and Social
Degradation of soils	Undersized or failing land application system/ usually high strength effluent	Environmental and Social
Increased algae growth	Excess nitrate and phosphate in surface waters	Environmental, Health and Social
Degradation of native vegetation	Excess nitrate and phosphate in soils and/ or surface waters	Environmental and Social

## **3 Legislation and Policies**

### **3.1 Council's Plans and Policies**

The DWMP has been developed to fit with other Council Policies and Plans through actions identified in the Action Plan. The following lists the various Council Plans which have been included in the DWMP review, which are discussed further within the Technical Document.

- Council Plan 2013 – 2017;
- Colac Otway Shire Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013 – 2017;
- Colac Otway Planning Scheme;
- Colac Otway Rural Living Strategy; and
- Council Budget.

### **3.2 Legislation**

A summary of the legislation and their stipulated requirements relevant to the regulation of DWM systems are detailed in the Technical Document. The relevant legislation includes:

- *Local Government Act 1989*;
- *Environment Protection Act 1970*;
- *Water Act 1989*;
- *Planning and Environment Act 1987*;
- *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*;
- State Environmental Protection Policy Waters of Victoria;
- State Environmental Protection Policy Groundwater of Victoria; and
- Victorian Building Regulations 2006.

### **3.3 Regulatory and Legislated Authorities**

DWM involves, to varying degrees, a number of regulatory agencies:

- Council (Colac Otway Shire Council);
- Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA);
- Plumbing Industry Commission (PIC);
- Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV);
- Barwon Water;
- Wannon Water;
- Southern Rural Water;
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP); and
- Corangamite Catchment Management Authority.

### **3.4 Administrative Authorities**

VCAT is a tribunal which deals with civil disputes, administrative decisions and appeals that are heard before Judge or Tribunal member. It provides a dispute resolution service for both government and individuals within Victoria.

In recent cases, VCAT has questioned the quality of LCAs for DWM, particularly where a site is located within a potable water supply catchment. VCAT has also questioned the rigour of Council evaluation of these LCAs and how the minimum development guideline of 1 dwelling per 40 hectares should be applied in the DWSCs (ref. 'Guidelines – Planning Permit Applications in Open, Potable Water Supply Catchment Areas' – DSE, 2012).

### **3.5 Standards and Guidelines**

The design, operation and management of DWM systems are supported by a number of standards and guidelines:

- EPA Code of Practice – Onsite Wastewater Management, Publication 891.3 (2013);
- Land Capability Assessment – Onsite Wastewater Management, Publication 746.1 (2003);
- AS/NZS 1547:2012 Onsite Domestic Wastewater Management;
- AS/NZS 3500:2003 Plumbing and Drainage; and
- Guidelines – Planning Permit Applications in Open, Potable Water Supply Catchment Areas (DSE, 2012).



## 4 Risk Assessment Framework

Risk Assessment is practiced by individuals and organisations all of the time. However, with the evolving complexity of society, a need for formal Risk Assessment has arisen since the 1950's. This began with studies of food safety and was progressively adopted in the fields of public health and environmental impact. Formal risk assessment has proven to be an effective way of making decisions in situations involving considerable complexity and uncertainty.

Formal recognition of the value, intent and application of risk assessment is provided in the international standard for formal risk management and associated guidelines (Standards Australia, 2009; IEC/ISO, 2009). AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 (Risk Management) defines risk as the “effect of uncertainty on objectives”, where an effect is a (+/-) deviation from the expected and objectives can apply to differing aspects (e.g. environmental goals) or at differing scales (e.g. strategic). In more general terms, Risk is often expressed in terms of the ‘consequences’ of an event or action and the associated ‘likelihood’ of that event/action occurring.

The fundamental purpose of any DWMP is the identification and management of risk from DWM systems to public and environmental health. A means of addressing the DWM issues raised by the unsewered towns/settlements, both within and outside of DWSCs, is to prepare a Risk Assessment tool that scientifically measures possible impacts of DWM systems on public and environmental health. A comprehensive 56-staged Risk Assessment model (Framework) (RAF) has been developed for this DWMP to assist Council in analysing risk at variable scales (Shire-wide to individual property/parcel).

(a and b) provides an overview of how each stage of the Risk Assessment Framework refines the risk assessment process. It also identifies the parameters applied and outputs derived at each stage in the process.

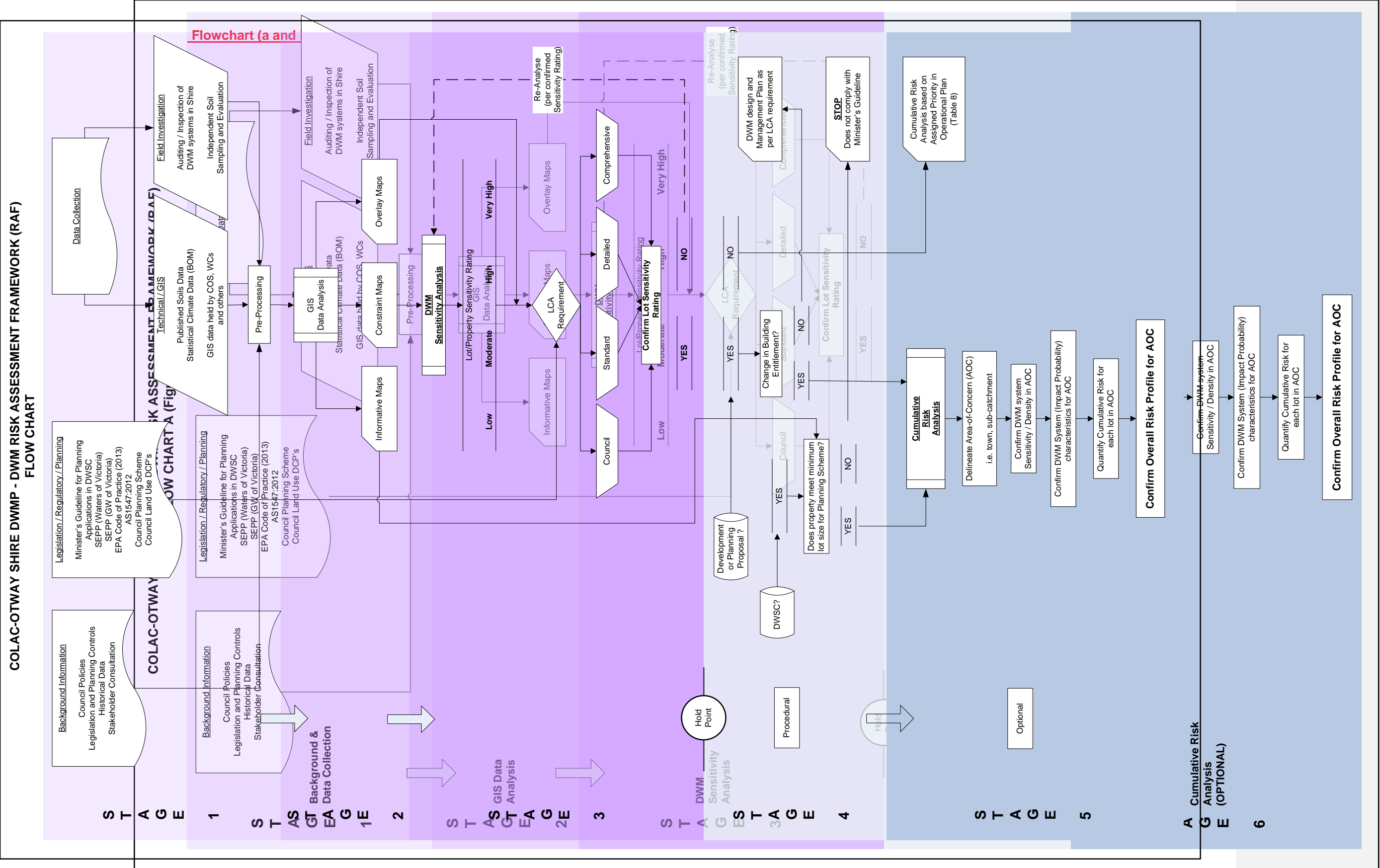
Together, all stages of the Risk Assessment have substantial value as a development assessment tool and provide a defensible identification and justification for prioritisation of existing management issues within the localities and towns/settlements. It incorporates tools that assess the bio-geophysical capability for DWM in existing unsewered localities and towns/settlements, recently developed unsewered subdivisions and undeveloped unsewered land. It will be primarily used:

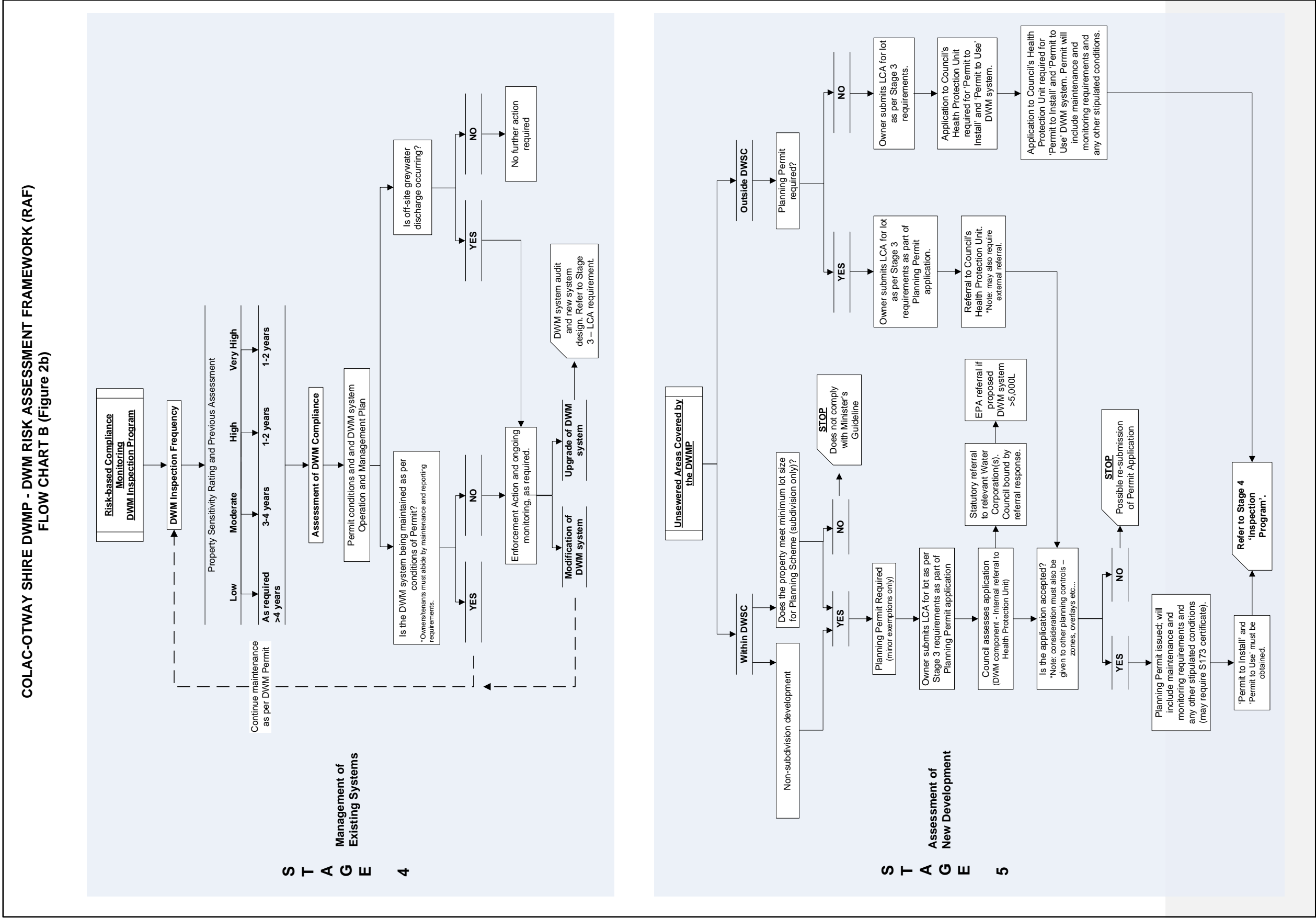
- To determine the level of technical investigation to be undertaken as part of a development application in an unsewered area;
- To identify existing priority unsewered localities and towns/settlements that require more detailed investigations to determine needs (i.e. improvement actions or plans);
- As a guide to develop a monitoring strategy for existing DWM systems in the Shire; and
- As a guide to Council for strategic planning of future unsewered development.

The overall Risk Assessment aims to provide Council with a reasoned and justified tool to prioritise future development, and to implement monitoring and upgrading of DWM systems within the Shire by highlighting regions with elevated DWM risk profiles (e.g. towns/settlements with a large numbers of small properties/parcels and older DWM systems). Consideration of both individual (property/parcel) and cumulative (regional) DWM risk provides a versatile tool for:

- a) examining changes from an accepted ‘baseline’ condition (i.e. water quality or environmental indicators).
- b) preparing cost/benefit analyses for upgrade/improvement options (i.e. DWM vs. sewerage).
- c) comparing alternate land use/development scenarios (i.e. development density).







## 4.1 DWM Sensitivity Analysis (Stage 3)

### 4.1.1 Methodology and Rationale

The primary objective of the DWMP is to assess all 'unsewered' 'developable' properties/parcels within COS to determine their suitability to sustainably manage domestic wastewater on-site in compliance with legislative (i.e. SEPPs) and regulatory (i.e. Code) requirements. The inter-relationship of a wide range of individual constraints and variables affect the specific land capability and associated limitations for sustainable on-site DWM. Understanding this inter-relationship can be difficult, particularly in terms of assessing the relative contributions of individual constraints in a broad-scale evaluation.

The DWM Sensitivity Analysis involved assessing the cumulative effect of the individual constraints detailed in Section 6 of the Technical Document: soil suitability, slope, useable lot area, climate and location (i.e. whether or not a property/parcel is located within a DWSC) for all of the unsewered properties/parcels within COS. Each property/parcel was assigned a rating class for each of the individual constraints based on the criteria detailed in Section 6 of the Technical Document.

The following algorithm was developed using professional judgement and reviews of current literature. The algorithm generally follows the rationale developed for the Mansfield Domestic Wastewater Management Plan Pilot Project (Mansfield Shire Council, 2014); with adaptation by the Stakeholder Working Group (SWG) to reflect COS specific concerns. It details how the individual constraints were combined to determine the final Sensitivity Rating for each unsewered property/parcel within COS:

$$((\text{Soil Suitability} + \text{Slope}) \times ((2 \times \text{Useable Lot Area}) + \text{Climate})) / 10$$

The algorithm incorporates the constraints imposed by landform and soil characteristics, as well as the local climate which will impact on the selection and sizing of DWM systems for any given location. The useable lot area refers to the physical constraints imposed by prescribed setbacks from sensitive features, such as surface waterways (permanent and intermittent), groundwater bores and flood prone land. The existing vegetation on a property/parcel, as well as the proposed development footprint (i.e. building envelope and improvements), will also impact on the resultant useable lot area. If there is insufficient area remaining, the property/parcel will be unable to sustainably manage the wastewater on-site and, hence, not comply with the requirements of the SEPP.

The final sensitivity value (number) derived from the algorithm for each property/parcel was assessed to determine the appropriate 'Sensitivity Rating' ranges. Further information on the development of the Sensitivity Rating classification is provided in the Technical Document (Section 6.2.1). The following outlines the respective ranges and associated final Sensitivity Rating classes:

- Very High:  $> 5.5$ ;
- High:  $4 \leq x \leq 5.5$ ;
- Moderate:  $2 \leq x \leq 4$ ; and
- Low:  $< 2$ .

Further, all properties/parcels were identified as being located within, or outside, a DWSC. This step was included to ensure that all properties/parcels located within a DWSC are subject to a LCA prior to development, as per Section 3.6 of the EPA Code of Practice (2013). For example, for a 'low' Sensitivity Rating property/parcel within a DWSC, the algorithm automatically increases the rating to 'moderate' to ensure that a LCA is undertaken, in accordance with the Code of Practice.

The criteria used to determine the Sensitivity Rating categories were based on previous constraint assessments for unsewered towns in Australia undertaken by W&A, and relevant Australian and Victorian guidelines for DWM. Table 5 provides a rationale for the interpretations

that were used to derive the ratings, which is also discussed in Section 6.2.1 of the Technical Document.

The final Sensitivity Ratings give guidance towards the DWM requirements as stipulated by Council. For existing DWM systems, the level of sensitivity will commonly reflect the level of challenge that has been experienced in managing the system. This information will help guide owners and Council in the ongoing management of existing systems.

**Table 5: Sensitivity Rating Descriptions**

<b>Sensitivity Rating</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Very High</b>	Constraints are present at a very high level and this significantly restricts opportunities for sustainable DWM. Traditional systems are 'typically' not appropriate and a detailed site and soil evaluation would be required to determine if DWM is achievable at all. If achievable, specialised, advanced treatment and land application systems may be required to overcome the constraint.
<b>High</b>	Constraints are present at a high level and this substantially restricts opportunities for sustainable DWM. Traditional systems (i.e. septic tanks and trenches) are 'typically' not appropriate and a detailed site and soil evaluation would be required to determine if they are supported. Otherwise specialised, advanced treatment and land application systems may be required to overcome the constraint.
<b>Moderate</b>	Constraints are present at a moderate level and this limits the range of DWM options that are appropriate for the site. A detailed site and soil evaluation is required to identify the most appropriate DWM system and mitigation measures to be employed.
<b>Low</b>	Constraints are present at a low level and are unlikely to substantially limit opportunities for DWM. In most cases appropriately designed and managed conventional systems will be accepted.

The terms relate to the underlying level of sensitivity to DWM posed by the property/parcel. These factors are used to direct management (planning) decisions and subsequently, the level or intensity of site-specific investigation (LCA) required.

#### **4.1.2 Sensitivity Analysis Mapping**

The final Sensitivity Rating for each individual unsewered property/parcel within COS is shown in Figure 3 and Table 6, which detail the results of the Sensitivity Analysis for the Shire. The final Sensitivity Rating and final map for each of the targeted localities and associated towns/settlements are detailed in the respective Locality Reports in Appendix B of the Technical Document. The targeted localities were highlighted as priority regions of investigation by Council and the SWG. The localities considered in this DWMP are: Alvie, Barham River Catchment (Apollo Bay locality hinterland), Barongarook, Barwon Downs, Beeac, Beech Forest, Carlisle River, Coragulac, Cororooke, Forrest, Gellibrand, Kawarren, Kennett River, Separation Creek and Wye River. The towns represent the developed 'centre' of each locality and are predominantly zoned Township Zone. Barham River, Barongarook and Kawarren, which are within the Rural Living Zone and Rural Conservation Zone, are referred to as 'settlements'. The town/settlement boundaries were primarily based on the zoning boundaries.

The parcels within each town/settlement include both commercial and domestic DWM systems without distinction. Town/settlement boundaries may also, on occasion, transect a given parcel.

In that instance the parcel is considered to be within the town/settlement boundary and its Sensitivity Rating will be applied to the entire parcel.

Council maintains a database of the calculated Sensitivity Ratings for all the unsewered properties within the Shire, which will be updated as they are validated by LCA or by Council inspection as part of this DWMP.

An owner can contact Council to obtain the data for the final Sensitivity Rating of their land. Council intends to develop an interactive map interface on the Council website where residents can access the final Sensitivity Analysis map. This item is included in the DWMP Action Plan.

**Table 6: Final Sensitivity Rating Summary**

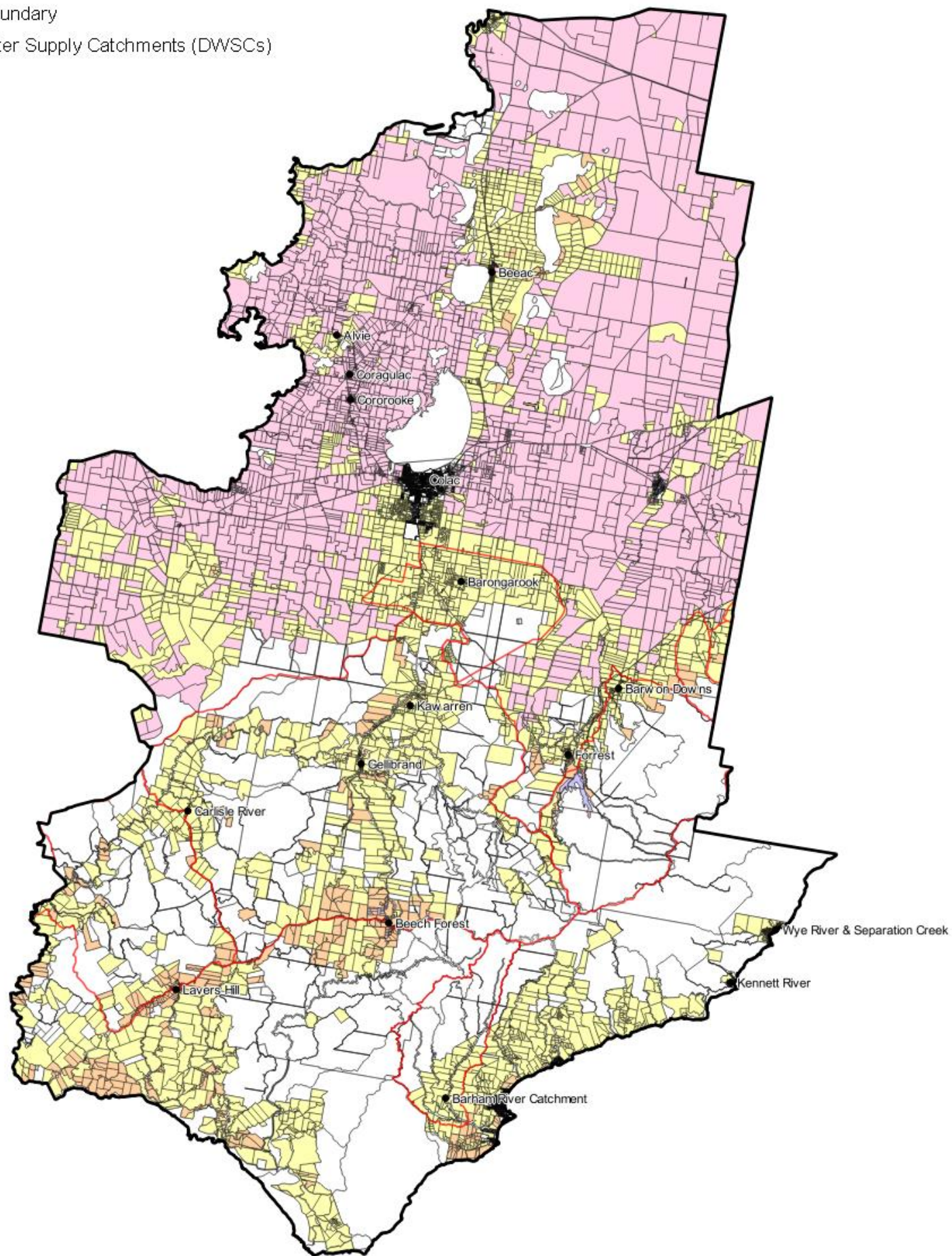
	Total Properties/ Parcels	Total Number in Final Sensitivity Rating*			
		Very High	High	Moderate	Low
Shire (Overall)	8,803	204	1,912	4,696	1,991
Alvie Town (Locality)	33 (174)	0 (0)	3 (8)	22 (81)	8 (85)
Barham River (Apollo Bay) Settlement (Locality)	81 (366)	0 (8)	22 (122)	59 (236)	0 (0)
Barongarook Settlement (Locality)	101 (265)	0 (0)	2 (7)	99 (258)	0 (0)
Barwon Downs Town (Locality)	89 (267)	0 (1)	0 (27)	89 (232)	0 (7)
Beeac Town (Locality)	269 (603)	0 (0)	198 (235)	70 (321)	1 (47)
Beech Forest Town (Locality)	150 (354)	103 (126)	44 (162)	3 (66)	0 (0)
Carlisle River Town (Locality)	26 (250)	0 (0)	0 (38)	26 (209)	0 (3)
Coragulac Town (Locality)	69 (201)	0 (0)	0 (0)	42 (77)	27 (124)
Cororooke Town (Locality)	112 (301)	0 (0)	0 (0)	95 (153)	17 (148)
Forrest Town (Locality)	167 (354)	0 (9)	14 (45)	153 (287)	0 (13)
Gellibrand Town (Locality)	71 (276)	0 (2)	19 (60)	52 (214)	0 (0)
Kawarren Settlement (Locality)	72 (215)	0 (0)	12 (35)	60 (180)	0 (0)
Kennett River Town (Locality)	180 (186)	0 (0)	173 (175)	7 (11)	0 (0)
Lavers Hill Town (Locality)	84 (204)	29 (41)	55 (134)	0 (29)	0 (0)
Separation Creek Town (Locality)	121 (136)	0 (0)	106 (113)	15 (23)	0 (0)
Wye River Town (Locality)	377 (393)	0 (0)	364 (368)	13 (25)	0 (0)



**Legend**

Sensitivity Analysis Rating - Shire Cadastre [8803]

- Very High [204]
- High [1912]
- Moderate [4696]
- Low [1991]
- COS LGA Boundary
- Declared Water Supply Catchments (DWSCs)
- Cadastre



**Figure 3: Sensitivity Analysis - Shire**

Colac Otway Shire DWMP Review

**W Whitehead & Associates**  
Environmental Consultants



Revision	6
Drawn	JK
Approved	MS

#### 4.1.3 Evaluation of Final Sensitivity Analysis

The Sensitivity Analysis resulted in the properties/parcels throughout the majority of the Shire being assigned a Moderate Sensitivity Rating. The final Sensitivity Analysis map highlights the inherent relationship that results in only one or two individual constraints (e.g. soil suitability) generally affecting any given property/parcel. This relationship is described further in the individual Locality Reports (Appendix B, Technical Document). Each locality and associated town/settlement has particular DWM constraints that need to be addressed.

The mapping identifies approximately:

- 22.6% of properties/parcels within the Shire with a Low Sensitivity Rating;
- 53.4% of properties/parcels with a Moderate Sensitivity Rating;
- 21.7% of properties/parcels with a High Sensitivity Rating; and
- 2.3% of properties/parcels with a Very High Sensitivity Rating.

The spatial distribution of the levels of sensitivity appears to be distinctly influenced by topographical features, such as the Otway Ranges. The northern half of the Shire appears to pose a lower sensitivity to sustainable DWM, whereas, the southern half of the Shire, including the coastline, generally poses a moderate sensitivity to sustainable DWM. Therefore, prioritisation should be towards the areas that pose a higher level of sensitivity.

According to the individual constraint maps as detailed in the Technical Document, the parameters contributing the greatest limitation to DWM within the Shire are soil suitability (which is often due to clayey soils derived from the basaltic parent rocks), slope, climate and useable lot area, (generally associated with surface waterways, particularly within the DWSCs in the Otway Ranges).

It is essential that the limitations of the data used to compile these maps are recognised when using the Sensitivity Analysis map. Whilst individual properties/parcels have been assigned a Sensitivity Rating, it is not sufficiently detailed to allow determination of individual system performance or land capability for individual properties/parcels. This is why the term Risk Assessment is used to describe the methodology and resultant outputs. An allotment categorised as having a Very High Sensitivity rating will not necessarily be totally unsuitable for on-site DWM or currently be experiencing poor system performance or system failure; however, it is likely to contain a number of significant limitations to the safe operation of on-site DWM systems assessed at a very broad scale.

Overall Sensitivity Ratings should be used to justify the requirement for more detailed individual property/parcel LCAs, more rigorous assessment of development proposals and to target investment in the inspection and management of existing on-site DWM systems, rather than to define system performance or land capability.

Furthermore, the degree of risk depends on the type of effluent ~~disposal~~ **dispersal** system and generated effluent quality (e.g. subsurface irrigation can be installed on slopes up to 15 – 20% in some cases, but this would be impractical for trenches). This relationship is detailed further in Section 6.2.5 of the Technical Document. Physical constraints can often be overcome or substantially mitigated by a range of measures (such as terracing, importing topsoil fill, installing stormwater diversions, removing vegetation or planting nutrient tolerant vegetation), thereby increasing the 'suitability' of the available area.

## 4.2 Land Capability Assessment (Stage 3)

A Land Capability Assessment (LCA) is required when submitting a Planning Permit application or when a Certificate to Install a DWM system is required. A LCA must be conducted in accordance with the minimum standards outlined in the current EPA Code of Practice and AS/NZS 1547:2012 and should be guided by the Victorian Model Land Capability Assessment Framework (MAV, ~~2014~~, & DSE, 2006) (as amended). A LCA needs to demonstrate that the requirements of the SEPP will be met.

The Sensitivity Rating determined by the Sensitivity Analysis will act as the default LCA standard for properties/parcels as defined by this DWMP. It is important to note that there may be circumstances where the desktop sensitivity analysis results do not correlate perfectly with actual site conditions. In these circumstances, an increase or decrease in the Sensitivity Rating and LCA requirements may occur at the discretion of Council through completing a Site Inspection and Field Investigation. Therefore, the results of site-specific LCAs will constantly update the Sensitivity Analysis database held by Council, which will improve site understanding and validity of results.

It may be suitable for accredited LCA assessors to provide a clause within the contract warning clients of a potential fluctuation of requirements, and hence cost, that is dependent on Sensitivity Rating confirmation of the property/parcel. The current EPA Code of Practice states that Council's Health Protection Officers (HPOs) or other Authorised Officers (AO) can determine what comprises a satisfactory LCA.

The MAV has developed a model LCA report and procedures to assist LCA assessors and regulators. As a minimum, LCAs should follow the 12-stage best practice model detailed within the current EPA Code of Practice and Victorian LCA Framework (MAV, 2014). The specific LCA requirements for the determined Sensitivity Ratings (~~very high, high, moderate~~ Very High, High, Moderate and ~~low~~ Low) are detailed below.

When completing a LCA, the results from LCA stages 1-3 must be confirmed with Council in order to assess the final Sensitivity Rating for the property/parcel and to confirm final LCA requirements for DWM system selection and design. A Site Plan showing the available effluent management area(s) must be provided, along with the Sensitivity ~~Proforma~~ Pro-forma Checklist (example shown below in Table 7), for Council assessment.

A copy of the Sensitivity ~~Proforma~~ Pro-forma Checklist can also be found in Appendix B. Copies of the minimum requirements for assessment and reporting for each level of LCA are provided in Appendix C.



**Table 7: Sensitivity ~~Proforma~~Pro-forma Checklist Example**

Parameter	Site specific input
PFI Identification Number <sup>2</sup>	(e.g. 5763482)
Property/Parcel Address	(e.g. 57 Main Road)
Locality	(e.g. Barongarook)
Zoning and Overlay	(e.g. Township Zone)
Area (ha)	(e.g. 4ha)
Soil Texture	Soil Category as per AS/NZS 1547:2012 (e.g. Category 4 - Clay loam)
Soil Depth (m)	Depth to limiting layer (1.7m)
Soil Structure	Weak, moderate, strong, massive or apedal (e.g. weak)
Soil Limitations	(e.g. sodic and low fertility)
Permeability (Ksat) (m/day)	Indicative as per AS/NZS 1547:2012 or directly measured in-situ (e.g. 0.1m/day) <a href="#">using approved methodology (i.e. AS/NZS 1547:2012, Appendix G)</a>
Slope (%)	Average slope (e.g. 4%)
Presence of Surface Waters	Distance to nearest surface waters
Useable Lot Area (ha)	Apply all relevant setback distances (e.g. 1.5ha)

With regards to DWM system selection and sizing, the hydraulic permeability and corresponding 'design' loading rate for the most limiting soil horizon within 1.2m of the soil surface must be used. This conservative approach ensures that the loading of wastewater on the soil can be supported for the entire soil profile to ensure that surface runoff and excessive deep drainage does not occur. The DWM systems should be sized either:

- as per the System Sizing Tables (Section 7 of the Technical Document) if permitted by this DWMP; or
- by site-specific design as detailed by the respective LCA requirements explained below.

#### 4.2.1 Requirements for Low Sensitivity Properties/Parcels

**For Low Sensitivity Rating properties/parcels**, it is envisaged that a LCA will generally not be necessary, unless deemed so by Council staff. Applications for low sensitivity properties/parcels can be assessed using the Sensitivity ~~Proforma~~Pro-forma Checklist (Table 7 and Appendix B) and/or the 'Site Information Sheet' template in Appendix D of AS1547:2012 to confirm and record the site and soil characteristics. If available for the location, the proposed treatment and

<sup>2</sup> Either parcel or property identifier.

land application system combination can be selected from the System Selection (Appendix A) and Sizing Tables (Locality Reports in Appendix B of the Technical Document).

Council may visit the site to confirm site and soil details are as per the ~~Proforma~~Pro-forma detail and that the proposed DWM treatment and land application system is appropriate for the site. If a Low Sensitivity Rating property/parcel is located within a region of increased sensitivity or DWM constraint, Council staff may require, at their discretion, a Standard LCA Assessment and Report to be completed (Table C1, Appendix C). This may include properties/parcels that are located in areas prone to landslip, high groundwater regions, Groundwater Water Supply Protection Areas (i.e. Warrion), or Groundwater Management Areas.

For Low Sensitivity Rating properties/parcels located within a DWSC, a LCA is mandatory as per Section 3.6 of the EPA Code of Practice (~~2403~~2013); therefore, they are automatically required to complete a Standard LCA as detailed in Table C1, Appendix C.

For Moderate, High and Very High Risk properties/parcels, or other properties where Council has ordered that a LCA should be prepared, the following guidelines (or as amended) should be adhered to by the consultant preparing the LCA on behalf of the owner:

- EPA Code of Practice – On-site Wastewater Management, Publication 891.3 (2013);
- AS/NZS 1547:2012; and
- Municipal Association of Victoria – Model Land Capability Assessment Guideline (2014).

#### 4.2.2 Requirements for Moderate Sensitivity Properties/Parcels

**For Moderate Sensitivity Rating properties/parcels**, a Standard LCA is required (Appendix C, Table C1) which includes Site Inspection and Field Investigations. However, where appropriate, system design can be determined using the System Selection (Appendix A) and Sizing Tables (Section 7 and the Locality Reports in Appendix B of the Technical Document).

A provision is made for Moderate sensitivity rating properties/parcels located within Climate Zone 4 (Otway Ridge region) that they must complete Section 6 'System Selection and Design' as per the Detailed LCA procedure, as site-specific design is required for system sizing. This is to ensure that the sensitivity of the Otways and increased difficulty in DWM design due to high rainfall is taken into consideration.

#### 4.2.3 Requirements for High Sensitivity Properties/Parcels

**For High Sensitivity Rating properties/parcels**, a Detailed LCA is required (Appendix C, Table C2) which requires information in addition to the Standard LCA. The main requirement of a Detailed LCA is to undertake a monthly water balance for sizing the DWM system ~~(Stage 6)~~. More comprehensive soil testing is also required to assist with appropriate system selection and ensuring any necessary mitigation measures are implemented into the site management plan.

System Selection and Sizing Tables are not available for High Sensitivity Rating properties/parcels.

#### 4.2.4 Requirements for Very High Sensitivity Properties/Parcels

**For Very High Sensitivity Rating properties/parcels**, a Comprehensive LCA is required (Appendix C, Table C3) which understandably requires a higher level of assessment and reporting due to the inherent constraints and risks associated with sustainable DWM on the property/parcel. A Comprehensive LCA requires in-situ permeability testing, viral die-off modelling, soil chemical analysis, conservative monthly or daily water balance, an annual nutrient balance and a detailed site specific hydraulic design in addition to the standard LCA requirements. Council are implementing an in-situ permeability testing protocol that must be followed.

#### 4.2.5 Generic LCA Requirements - Overlays

As detailed in Stage 1 of each LCA procedure (Appendix C), confirmation of any relevant sensitivity overlays (e.g. landslip) with Council is required. If any sensitivity is identified, this

needs to be specifically addressed within the LCA. Discussion with Council is required to determine the necessary requirements to be met. If the site is located within an identified landslip region, then a geotechnical report (DWM relevant) will likely need to be completed; refer to [Stage Step 4](#) [pp.34] of the [12-step LCA procedure in the EPA Code of Practice \(2013\)](#) for detail.

If the site is located within a known shallow groundwater region, the depth to (permanent and shallow) groundwater will need to be determined and discussed within the LCA report.

**Additional LCA requirements:**

- All Low Sensitivity Rating properties/parcels within a DWSC are required as a minimum to do a Standard LCA as per the current EPA Code of Practice requirements; and
- All properties/parcels located within Climate Zone 4, associated with the higher rainfall in the Otway Ridge (i.e. Lavers Hill, Fergusson and Beech Forest), are required to undertake site-specific design and cannot use the System Sizing Tables.

It should be noted that a LCA may indicate that it is not possible to design an appropriate DWM system for a given site and sometimes costs for construction may be prohibitive. However, the onus of justification rests with the LCA assessor who may demonstrate to Council/WC satisfaction that the risk from a proposed DWM system combination has been adequately addressed by design or management measures.

### 4.3 Sensitivity Analysis Summary

The recognised limitations emphasise that the Sensitivity Analysis should only be used as a guide to distinguish regions within the Shire with relatively higher levels of sensitivity to DWM related public and/or environmental health outcomes. The results can be used to target more detailed investigations into suitability for on-site DWM. The Sensitivity Analysis maps help to target the main bio-physical DWM constraints associated with a specific property/parcel which, with appropriate individual assessment and design, can potentially be mitigated or overcome.

Useable lot area, irrespective of total property/parcel size, plays a key role in determining a properties/parcels capacity for sustainable long-term on-site DWM and influences the selection of appropriate systems. As a general rule, the smaller the property/parcel, the less land that will be available for effluent management after allowing for other development of the land. It is difficult to define the minimum lot size that would be required throughout the Shire to ensure long-term on-site DWM without further detailed study. This will vary depending on the physical constraints of the property/parcel and the nature of the development as well as the type of treatment and land application system used.

The Minister for Water's Guideline 1 requires that the density of unsewered dwellings should be no greater than one dwelling per 40 hectares and each lot created in a subdivision should be at least 40 hectares in area within DWSCs. In order to allow for consideration of a relaxation of this Guideline, a LCA needs to demonstrate that DWM is sustainable with no off-property/parcel discharges and that the minimum zoning lot size requirements ([for subdivisions only](#)) in the Planning Scheme are met. Further assessment on sustainable property/parcel densities within specific sub-catchments is required.

It is also evident that variability in constraint exists between the different unsewered localities within the Shire. Further detailed studies into the performance of existing on-site DWM systems within each of the targeted unsewered towns/settlements is recommended to verify the findings of this broad-scale assessment, to provide a more detailed study on maximum property/parcel development density and hence minimum lot size in proposed development areas. This will aid Council in ensuring future development will not adversely impact environmental and public health.

### 4.4 Prioritisation of Investigation Areas

A key role of the DWMP and Action Plan is to guide the systematic investigation and management of unsewered development within the Shire. Investigation may include:

- Improving and expanding the existing Council DWM database through inspection of undocumented properties;
- Focussing compliance and monitoring activities in areas where risk of adverse DWM outcomes (i.e. High/ Very High Sensitivity Rating properties/parcels) are concentrated;
- Developing a greater understanding of the risks of increasing unsewered development density within an Area-of-Concern, which may be described at various scales (i.e. town/settlement, off-take, catchment area etc.); and
- Guiding strategic planning initiatives to enhance environmental objectives (i.e. water quality targets) or to examine alternative wastewater servicing solutions for unsewered areas.

It is not feasible to deal with the requirements of the entire Shire simultaneously so a process for ranking the priority of 'core' and 'non-core' Areas-of-Concern (AOCs) for investigation effort is required.

'Core' areas include the targeted towns/settlements (as agreed by the Stakeholder Working Group) and delineated sub-catchments within the DWSCs (following the methodology detailed in Section 7 in the Technical Document). 'Non-Core' areas comprise remaining areas within the Shire boundary (residual regions) which were assigned based on their geographic location (i.e. north or south). Prioritisation involved analysis at varying scales to address the variable goals of COS and the WCs.

Priority is based on the density of DWM sensitivity (Sensitivity Density) within each AOC. Sensitivity Density is reported as the aggregated DWM sensitivity (value) per unit area ( $\text{km}^2$ ). The methodology for calculating Sensitivity Density within each AOC is as follows:

- Delineate the AOC (i.e. town/settlement, sub-catchment or residual region);
- Confirm the number of unsewered properties/parcels within the AOC;
- Calculate the cumulative 'Sensitivity Value' for the investigation properties/parcels within the AOC (sum of all values);
- Calculate the cumulative area of the investigation properties/parcels within the AOC (sum of individual property/parcel areas);
- Calculate the DWM Sensitivity Density for each AOC (cumulative DWM 'Sensitivity' value per unit area -  $\text{km}^2$ ); and
- Assign the priority ranking of each AOC based on the assigned sensitivity density value.

Town/settlement priority is based on the 'DWM Sensitivity Density' of all unsewered properties/parcels within the delineated town/settlement boundaries. Sub-catchment priority reflects the 'DWM Sensitivity Density' for all unsewered properties/parcels within the designated sub-catchment, less the properties/parcels already included in the town/settlement analysis. This approach follows the intention of the *Guidelines for Planning Permits in Open Potable Water Supply Catchment Areas* (DSE, 2012) where any development proposal must demonstrate that "the proposal does not present an unacceptable risk to the quality and quantity of water generated by the catchment [all land uses] having regard to the land capability assessments, land condition and management conditions of the site and catchment". Properties/parcels that were located within more than one sub-catchment were included in both sub-catchments to ensure conservatism as it is unknown at a regional scale where the development, or potential, is located on the property/parcel.

To complete the picture for the Shire, those areas within the LGA boundary that have not been accounted for in the town/settlement or sub-catchment priority analyses are included as residual regions. These areas are outside of the DWSC boundaries to the north and south of the Shire.

The prioritisation will assist in decision making and planning for future development within the AOCs. Additional detailed analysis and compliance regimes can then be developed with the aim

of protecting the environment and public health, whilst allowing for development consistent with Council strategies and planning controls.

Table 8 outlines the results and rankings of the Prioritisation Analysis for each AOC in descending order based on cumulative sensitivity to DWM.

The priority ranking (by Sensitivity Density) will inform operational priority which also accommodates other factors in prioritising work, such as objectives in the Council Plan.

## **4.5 Management of Unsewered Development in COS**

Stages 4 and 5 of the Risk Assessment Framework are 'procedural' steps for determining the management requirements for existing unsewered development or the need for further investigation and analysis for new development.

### **4.5.1 Management of Existing Systems (Stage 4)**

Existing DWM systems in COS will be managed through the risk-based compliance monitoring and inspection program as described in Section 6 of this DWMP. Stage 4 (Figure 2b) outlines the procedural framework under which COS will prioritise, inspect and, if necessary, require/enforce management of DWM systems in the Shire.

### **4.5.2 Assessment of New Development (Stage 5)**

Proposals for development exempt from planning permit requirements (e.g. dwelling in Township Zone that is not covered by any overlays) will proceed directly to the preparation of a LCA as per the requirements set out in Section 4.2 of this document.

Development proposals subject to a planning permit will be considered in accordance with legislative processes, and as per the framework detailed at Section 4.2. LCAs will be prepared to a degree of complexity as determined through a property's sensitivity rating, and referred to the water authorities as a referral authority under Section 55 of the Planning & Environment Act 1987, where the land is within the Drinking Water Catchments.

Planning proposals for subdivision of properties/parcels located within the DWSC must comply with the minimum lot size specified for the current zoning as per the Planning Scheme. If a proposed new lot does not achieve the minimum area, then it is deemed as non-compliant with the Minister for Water's Guidelines.

Finally, irrespective of where or how development will proceed within COS, Council may consider examining the 'Cumulative Risk' of all unsewered development areas using the proposed methodology as part of a longer term goal for managing domestic wastewater systems in the Shire.



**Table 8: Prioritisation Summary**

Priority Ranking	Area of Concern (AOC)	Location/ Description	Unsewered Lots within AOC	Cumulative Sensitivity Rating	AOC area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Sensitivity Density (per km <sup>2</sup> )
<b>Towns</b>						
1	Kennett River	Outside DWSC	180	865	0.26	3,327
2	Wye River and Separation Creek	Outside DWSC	498	2,386	0.72	3,314
3	Beech Forest	Within DWSC; Sub-catchments E, V and outside	150	917	0.49	1,871
4	Beeac	Outside DWSC	269	1,008	0.63	1,600
5	Lavers Hill	Within DWSC; Sub-catchments T and outside	84	444	0.38	1,168
6	Cororooke	Outside DWSC	112	300	0.35	857
7	Forrest	Outside DWSC; Sub-catchment N (slightly)	167	522	0.72	725
8	Barwon Downs	Within DWSC; Sub-catchments K, L and outside	89	253	0.41	617
9	Gellibrand	Within DWSC; Sub-catchments E, V and U	71	250	0.45	556
10	Alvie	Outside DWSC	33	87	0.19	457
11	Coragulac	Outside DWSC	69	165	0.59	280
12	Carlisle River	Within DWSC; Sub-catchments W and G	26	70	0.27	258
13	Kawarren	Within DWSC; Sub-catchment U	72	225	2.01	112
14	Barongarook Settlement	Within DWSC; Sub-catchments Q and P	101	251	2.99	84
15	Barham River Catchment Settlement	Within DWSC; Sub-Catchments D and S	81	316	18.08	17
<b>SUB-CATCHMENTS</b>						
1	B - West Gellibrand River	Offtake	2	7.2	0.03	240
2	O - Gellibrand River	Discharge	115	362.2	43.67	98.7
3	W - to Carlisle River	Discharge	129	488.1	46.88	70.9
4	H - East Barwon Diversion Gates	Offtake	35	145	3.83	37.9
5	M - to King Creek	Discharge	19	66.8	2.84	23.5
6	F - Wyelangta Depot and North Arkins Creek	Offtake	16	62.6	2.76	22.7
7	N - to Barwon River West Branch	Discharge	58	256.4	12.47	20.6
8	L - to Callahan Creek North Branch	Discharge	31	97.2	5.06	19.2
9	K - to Dewings Creek (Wurdi Boluc Inlet Channel)	Discharge	44	134.7	9.61	14
10	E - Gellibrand Pump Station	Offtake	119	463.8	33.56	13.8
11	V - to Gellibrand River and Charleys Creek	Discharge	242	887.8	65.18	13.6
12	T - to Chappell Creek and Gellibrand River	Discharge	204	845.4	67.83	12.5
13	X - to Gellibrand River (near Sheeppyard Creek)	Discharge	67	248.4	23.42	10.6
14	R - to Deans Creek	Discharge	43	107	10.7	10
15	I - Callahans Creek	Offtake	1	4.2	0.43	9.8
16	P - Boundary Creek	Discharge	171	386.7	40.18	9.6
17	G - North Otway River Raw WPS	Offtake	29	93.5	9.89	9.5
18	Q - to Barongarook Creek	Discharge	109	283.7	31.81	8.9
19	J - to Matthews Creek (to the north)	Discharge	57	151.6	24.27	6.2
20	D - Barham River Pump Station 2	Offtake	7	23.7	3.85	6.2
21	S - to Barham River West Branch	Discharge	7	24.4	4.33	5.6
22	U - to Love Creek	Discharge	228	690.6	60.31	1.5
23	A - Olangolah	Offtake	0	0	0	0
24	C - Barham River Pump Station 1	Offtake	0	0	0	0
<b>Residual Regions</b>						
1	Southern	Residual area outside DWSC	1,018	3,782	255.6	14.8
2	Northern	Residual area outside DWSC	4,049	8,780	1,597.50	5.5

#### 4.54.6 Cumulative Impact Assessment of DWM

Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) is an indicative risk assessment tool used to provide guidance on potential risks associated with existing or proposed development in unsewered areas. It provides a means of quantifying risks and comparing them with identified benchmarks (i.e. baseline or pre-developed conditions) or performance targets (i.e. water quality indicators). The CIA looks at existing DWM systems within an area and determines the environmental and health impacts that could occur from changes in DWM management (i.e. compliance monitoring), increasing density of DWM systems (i.e. development) or other improvements (i.e. DWM system upgrades).

Example1: CIA would allow Council to test the benefits of implementing a targeted (DWM) improvement program in an AOC (e.g. town/settlement).

Following site inspection (see Section 7.4.2 of this Plan), Council would analyse the combined outcome of DWM sensitivity and (DWM) system combination for each property/parcel in the AOC using the procedure described in Section 4.5.4.42 (below). The derived value combinations for each property/parcel would then be inserted into a Cumulative Risk Analysis matrix (see Figure 5) to determine the underlying DWM 'Risk Profile' for the AOC.

Quantification of this 'baseline' dataset would then allow Council to examine the sensitivity of the 'cumulative risk' of the AOC to alternate improvement scenarios (i.e. householder education, increased monitoring effort, voluntary system upgrades etc.) and test the benefits of each approach using only desktop investigation tools.

The Minister for Water's Guidelines state that a DWMP must provide a strategy to prevent both individual and cumulative impacts on groundwater and surface water beneficial uses and to also prevent discharge of wastewater off-lot.

Further, the EPA Code of Practice (Section 1.6) states:

*"While this Code primarily refers to single allotments, the **cumulative impact of all wastewaters within a subdivision, a commercial precinct or a township should be taken into account when assessing the capability of a lot to absorb treated effluent without negatively impacting its surroundings.** This is particularly important in areas scheduled as open potable water supply catchments (DSE 2012).*

*To minimise the cumulative impact of wastewater, effluent must be contained onsite within the boundaries of the allotment. This aims to prevent the transport of nutrients, pathogens and other pollutants to surface waters and to prevent any negative impacts on 'groundwater beneficial uses' within the catchment (Clause 32, SEPP WoV 2003; SEPP GoV 1997).*

*For existing **premises with an offsite discharge or a failing system on a small block the wastewater management system should be upgraded** to contain as much of the effluent as possible on the allotment".*

There is no pro-forma methodology for completing CIA for DWM. It is possible to use extensive modelling of DWM system performance and catchment run-off and pollutant characteristics to estimate the potential human health and environmental impacts of multiple DWM systems. However, the level of detail and complexity can be varied to reflect the potential risk (a function of the likelihood and/or consequence of failure) a specific proposal poses to human and ecosystem health.

This DWMP proposes a semi-quantitative approach using the outcomes of the Sensitivity Analysis, (DWM) system detail and compliance/performance information to develop an adaptable DWM 'Cumulative Risk' [analysis](#) procedure.

The following sections detail a methodology to develop procedural and management systems within and throughout the DWMP implementation process that will allow for integration of strategic information (i.e. planning schemes or proposals), generated data (i.e. DWM Sensitivity Analysis) and collected data (e.g. water quality, system inspection information) into a usable risk assessment tool.

It is acknowledged that this type of procedure is “aspirational” in nature and should be considered an **OPTIONAL** component of the DWMP. However, this limitation should not detract from the consideration and value of such an undertaking. Risk Assessment is a two-dimensional analysis that reflects not only the consequence of an event or action (DWM Sensitivity Analysis), but also the ‘likelihood’ of that event/action occurring. The proposed ‘Cumulative Risk’ procedure provides a flexible (semi-qualitative) approach to measuring the likelihood of an adverse (DWM-related) event in an AOC. This attribute is referred to as the ‘Impact Probability’ rating hereafter in this document.

#### **4.5.1—Development Assessment Procedure (Stage 4)**

~~Stage 4 of the Risk Assessment Framework is a ‘procedural’ step for determining the need for further investigation and analysis.~~

~~Proposals for development exempt from planning permit requirements (e.g. dwelling in Township Zone that is not covered by any overlays) will proceed directly to the preparation of a LCA as per the requirements set out in Section 4.2 of this document.~~

~~Development and planning proposals for properties/parcels located within the DWSC must comply with the minimum lot size specified for the current zoning as per the Planning Scheme. If a property/parcel does not achieve the minimum area, then it is deemed as non-compliant with the Minister for Water’s Guidelines. Assuming the proposal is compliant with minimum lot size criteria, COS or the WCs may consider proceeding to the (Stage 5) Cumulative Risk procedure to develop a baseline condition by which the proposal may be assessed.~~

~~Finally, irrespective of where or how development will proceed within COS, Council may consider examining the ‘Cumulative Risk’ of all uncrowded development areas using the proposed methodology as part of a longer term goal for managing domestic wastewater systems in the Shire.~~

#### **4.5.24.6.1 Cumulative Risk Analysis (Stage 5)**

The potential for DWM systems to result in consequential degradation of both surface water and groundwater resources depends on the nature of the discharge (i.e. surface or subsurface) and the capacity of the property/parcel to assimilate the effluent and attenuate associated pollutants such as nitrogen, phosphorous and pathogens. System age, selection, sizing and design, as well as correct operation and maintenance, also contribute to the potential under-performance<sup>3</sup> of a DWM system.

Programs need to be put in place to minimise DWM system under-performance and to rapidly identify and address events when they occur. The following methodology assesses the cumulative impact of DWM systems on environmental and public health by comparing the probability of DWM system under-performance with the ability to contain DWM on-site (Sensitivity Rating).

As part of Council’s compliance monitoring system, detailed in Section 7, a database of DWM system information will be constantly updated and managed to assess the current situation and prioritise improvements or upgrades. From knowing details about a particular DWM system, the probability of under-performance can be estimated. Key DWM system attributes used to estimate the probability of system under-performance are:

- The treatment system (e.g. septic tank) and land application system (e.g. leach drain) combination in operation;
- The expected wastewater volume (loading) treated by the DWM system; and

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<sup>3</sup> Identified deficiency (management, structural or operational) leading to actual or potential off-site discharge of untreated or poorly treated (DWM) effluent in such a manner or quantity that it may cause consequential impact to off-site environmental resources (water quality) or public health outcomes.

- The system's age and assumptions about the effluent quality proposed/likely to be produced.

The probability of under-performance of a DWM system is based on its degree of potential to cause environmental or public health impacts. Figure 4 (following) presents an 'Impact Probability' matrix based on the attributes previously described. The rating is presented on a scale of one to five representing recently constructed, heavily designed or highly managed systems (e.g. publicly managed community systems) at the lower end of the scale (1) through to ageing, outdated and ~~new~~-managed systems (e.g. split black/grey water systems) at the other (5).

Example 2: A domestic all-waste system, such as an AWTs (with disinfection), discharging to an irrigation land application area. If the system was installed within the last 5 years it would be expected to hold a current EPA Certificate of Approval and be capable of reliably achieving secondary effluent quality standards. The land application area would be expected to have been designed, sized and located according to current best-practice procedure (i.e. EPA Code of Practice), with irrigation by way of subsurface or covered drip application. This system would be expected to be managed by contractual arrangement with a qualified system maintainer, with regular reporting to Council. The likely 'Impact Probability' rating for this system would be:

*(2) Low-Moderate probability that hydraulic (surface/subsurface), organic and nutrient safeguards (design, performance, mitigation) may not be sufficient to prevent consequential impact to off-site environmental resources (water quality) or public health outcomes. .*

If the same system was >10 years old, the AWTs may no longer hold an EPA Certificate of Approval (or may no longer be manufacturer supported). The technology/design of the system may not be able to reliably achieve secondary effluent quality standards and may not include disinfection. The land application area would likely have been designed, sized and located according to outdated procedures, with irrigation by way of surface (i.e. sprinkler type) application. There is a reduced likelihood that this system would be managed by contractual arrangement with a qualified system maintainer. The likely 'Impact Probability' rating for this system would be:

*(5) High probability that hydraulic (surface/subsurface), organic and nutrient safeguards (design, performance, mitigation) may not be sufficient to prevent consequential impact to off-site environmental resources (water quality) or public health outcomes.*

The extent and resultant impact of DWM system under-performance varies greatly, and the consequences for water quality will depend primarily on the degree and spatial density of events in the AOC. Under some conditions, even when a DWM system under-performs, effluent will still be retained on-lot. However, in other circumstances, DWM system under-performance may be minor but may quickly enter a sensitive environment (e.g. creek) and cause detrimental effects.

Therefore, it is important to determine the particular sensitivity of each AOC. In some cases (i.e. highly developed or degraded areas) the 'tolerable' level of DWM system under-performance may be greater than expected in an AOC of greater resource value (i.e. DWSC). The ~~tolerance~~tolerable under-performance level will vary between AOC's due to the wide range in environment dynamics, system combinations and sensitivities.

The key objective being determined by the SEPP requirements of "On-site domestic wastewater needs to be managed to prevent the transport of nutrients, pathogens and other pollutants to surface waters and to prevent any impacts on [water/groundwater] beneficial uses". Beneficial use being defined as "a use of the environment which is conducive to public benefit, welfare, safety, health or aesthetic enjoyment and which requires protection from the effects of waste discharges".

The beneficial uses relating to this DWMP, and also Colac Otway Shire generally (including DWSCs), include:

- water suitable for human consumption;

- water based recreation;
- water suitable for agriculture;
- aquatic ecosystems; and
- water suitable for the consumption of aquatic organisms (e.g. fish).

The *Policy Impact Assessment* (PIA) for the SEPP (WoV), prepared by the EPA (2003), describes how setting targets to measure the environmental quality of waterways should aim to drive continuous improvement (Section 6.4 Policy Purpose), stating that:

“This guidance helps [these] organisations understand what they need to do to improve environmental quality and protect beneficial uses. The goals provide some specific areas of focus for the next 10 years, to ensure that actions important to protect beneficial uses are implemented. This does not mean however that all environmental quality objectives need to be attained or actions fully implemented within that timeframe, but that progressive improvement is made towards their attainment. Therefore, actions in the attainment program need to be implemented in a priority-driven and practicable manner”.

It is particularly important within DWSCs to ensure that the quality of the resources is maintained; therefore, the overall cumulative impact of DWM on a sub-catchment should be assessed to ascertain particular risks and implement correct operational and management procedures to reduce any potential risks.

#### **4.5.2.14.6.1.1 Pilot Study (Separation Creek)**

To demonstrate the benefit and applicability of the CIA approach to DWM system management in COS, a small ‘pilot’ study was conducted for the Separation Creek town (AOC). Council holds a substantial database of DWM system records for the coastal towns of Wye River and Separation Creek and a number of other environmental and water quality investigations have been prepared for the area in recent years- (e.g. SKM 2014).

The Separation Creek (DWM) data set was analysed and interpreted to determine Impact Probability ratings for each of the 123 unsewered properties/parcels identified within the town boundary. Using the methodology described previously, these values were then correlated with the corresponding Sensitivity Ratings for each property/parcel using a ‘Cumulative Risk Analysis’ matrix. A copy of the matrix prepared for the pilot study is provided as Figure 5.

As shown, the underlying **Risk Profile** for Separation Creek is ‘High-Very High’ based on existing information. Where available information on system type/age/performance has been limited, the analysis has taken a conservative ‘worst-case’ approach. The data set would be improved based on site-specific investigation and compliance monitoring as part of the DWMP implementation. Where ‘0’ values are recorded, the property/parcel has been identified as ‘vacant’.

The pilot study has shown the use of the CIA procedure is a useful component of a holistic assessment of DWM risk within the Shire. Using the existing situation (baseline condition) as a starting point, Council is able to compare and contrast a range of options to address DWM impacts from the town. Changes from baseline condition can be confirmed by follow up investigations of environmental/water quality or other indicator targets (as defined).

			System Age			
			< 5years	5-10 years	> 10 years	Unknown
System Combination			Treatment system / Land application combination designed, sized and located according to current best-practice (CoP or similar). Both hydraulic and nutrient loading considered in land application sizing. Current technology. Current VIC Certificate of Approval. Contractual maintenance arrangement in place (secondary effluent standard or better). Infrastructure (tanks, pipes, pumps etc.) located and recorded and expected to be in 'near new' condition.	Treatment system / Land application combination may be designed, sized and located according to superceded standards. Nutrient loading not likely considered in land application sizing. Treatment system may no longer hold current VIC Certificate of Approval. Contractual maintenance arrangement may be in place (secondary effluent standard or better). Infrastructure (tanks, pipes, pumps etc.) generally locatable and may contain non-visible, unidentified or unreported damage.	Treatment system / Land application combination likely designed, sized and located according to outdated standards. Nutrient loading not likely considered in land application sizing. Treatment system may no longer hold current VIC Certificate of Approval. Contractual maintenance arrangement may not be included (secondary effluent standard or better). Infrastructure (tanks, pipes, pumps etc.) location may be unknown and likely to contain non-visible, unidentified or unreported damage.	System details not available or confirmed. Assumes worst-case environmental/public health risk outcome until determined otherwise.
Domestic System - single-residential dwelling or equivalent (<2,000L/day)	Split	Split-waste system. Blackwater septic tank followed by subsurface disposal (trench or pipe). Greywater discharge typically to stormwater system (may include sand-filter treatment prior) or uncontrolled discharge.	4	5	5	5
	Primary	All-waste system (black/greywater). Treatment in septic tank, composting/vermiculture system (or similar) to primary effluent standard, followed by discharge to subsurface trench/bed or LPED (below-ground application).	3	4	4.5	5
	Secondary	All-waste system (black/greywater). Treatment in AWTS, membrane and/or biological or media filter system to secondary effluent standard (including disinfection), followed by discharge to subsurface or surface land application.	2	3	4	4
	Tertiary	All-waste system (black/greywater). Treatment in secondary treatment system (as above) but demonstrably achieving advanced secondary effluent standard (including nutrient removal) suitable for high-quality uses (surface / subsurface landscape irrigation).	2	3	3.5	4
Commercial System - large scale (>2,000 L/day) systems managing combined wastewater from multiple dwellings or non-residential landuses	Primary	All-waste system (black/greywater). Treatment in single or multiple septic tank(s), composting/vermiculture system (or similar) to primary effluent standard, followed by discharge to subsurface trench/bed or LPED (below-ground application).	3	4	5	5
	Secondary	All-waste system (black/greywater). Treatment in commercial AWTS, membrane and/or biological or media filter system to secondary effluent standard (including disinfection) followed by discharge to subsurface or surface land application.	2	3	4	5
	Tertiary	All-waste system (black/greywater). Treatment in secondary treatment system (as above) but demonstrably achieving advanced secondary effluent standard (including disinfection and/or nutrient removal) suitable for high-quality uses (surface / subsurface landscape irrigation).	2	3	3.5	4
Community System - reticulated sewer, STEP/STEG, low-pressure/vacuum sewer or similar	Variable	Decentralised collection/treatment/land application system(s) servicing multiple dwellings, properties and/or landuses. May include local collection/treatment (on-lot infrastructure) and remote land application options. Centralised management by Water Authority or contracted entity.	1	1	2	3

- 5
- High probability that hydraulic (surface/subsurface), organic and nutrient safeguards (design, performance, mitigation) may not be sufficient to prevent consequential impact to off-site environmental resources (water quality) or public health outcomes.
- 4
- Moderate-High probability that hydraulic (surface/subsurface), organic and nutrient safeguards (design, performance, mitigation) may not be sufficient to prevent consequential impact to off-site environmental resources (water quality) or public health outcomes.
- 3
- Moderate probability that hydraulic (surface/subsurface), organic and nutrient safeguards (design, performance, mitigation) may not be sufficient to prevent consequential impact to off-site environmental resources (water quality) or public health outcomes.
- 2
- Low-Moderate probability that hydraulic (surface/subsurface), organic and nutrient safeguards (design, performance, mitigation) may not be sufficient to prevent consequential impact to off-site environmental resources (water quality) or public health outcomes.
- 1
- Low probability that hydraulic (surface/subsurface), organic and nutrient safeguards (design, performance, mitigation) may not be sufficient to prevent consequential impact to off-site environmental resources (water quality) or public health outcomes.

User Defined    User' may interpret matrix based on individual site or system characteristics and present (decimal) value within assigned range (qualitative assessment).

Figure 4: DWM Impact Probability Matrix

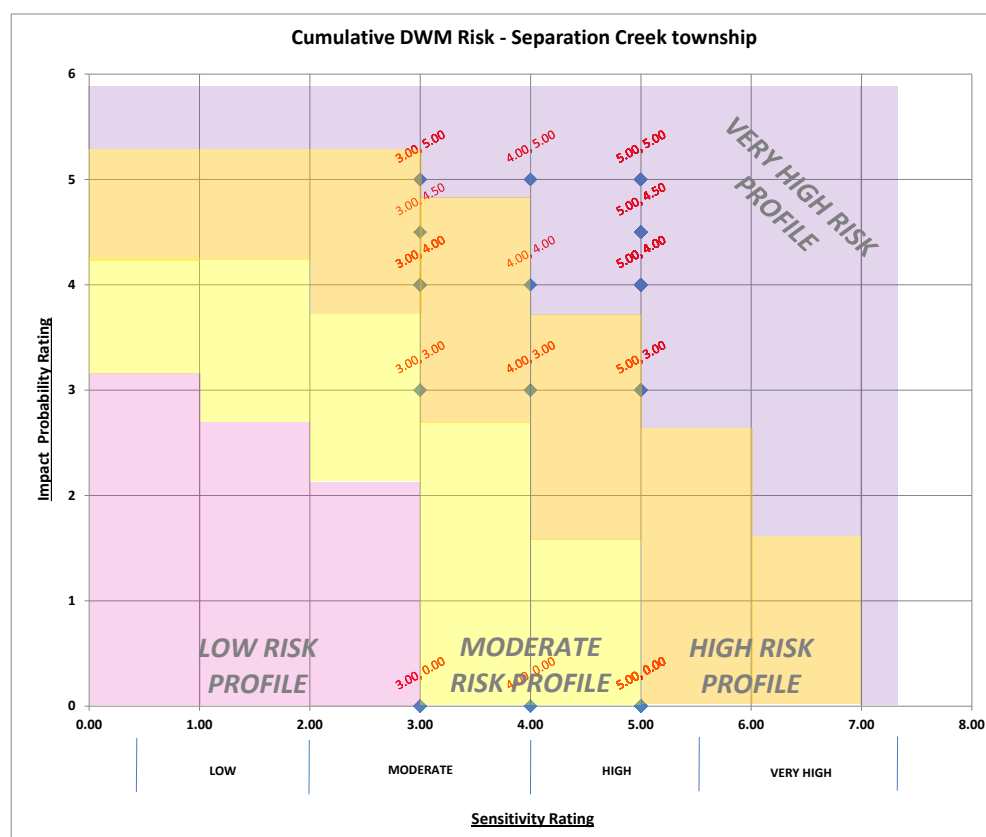


Figure 5: Cumulative Risk Analysis (Matrix)

#### 4.64.7 Limitations of the Risk Assessment Framework

There are several limitations inherent in the methodology adopted to assess the variation in on-site domestic wastewater related sensitivity throughout the Shire. Briefly, these are due to:

- The use of broad-scale mapping and desktop analysis, with only limited field-truthing of physical attributes;
- A lack of digital data in some areas;
- The present level of scientific understanding and uncertainties relating to the physical and chemical processes and their implications for sustainable on-site DWM. Current best practice derived from wide experience in Australia, New Zealand and the United States was used in this assessment;
- The limited availability, quality and accuracy of attribute data; and
- Limitations in the method of assessing the inter-relationship and cumulative effect of individual attributes and constraints.

The recognised limitations emphasise that the Sensitivity Analysis mapping should only be used as a preliminary attempt to distinguish regions within the Shire with relatively higher levels of risk to public and/or environmental health and with the objective of determining preliminary priority for future wastewater servicing. The Sensitivity Analysis can be used to target more detailed investigations into suitability for on-site DWM as detailed in Section 4.5.2.

## **5 Development Planning and Assessment**

### **5.1 Assessment of DWM Proposals**

Council's procedures for assessing DWM proposals are detailed in Sections 4, 6 and 7 of this Operational Plan. All DWM proposals must be submitted to Council with a 'Permit to Install' application form for the proposed treatment and land application systems. DWM proposals in defined Water Supply Protection Areas will be referred to the relevant Water Corporation (and other agencies, as required). The Action Plan (Action No. 1) includes a review and finalisation of Council procedures for the assessment of DWM proposals.

A LCA will not be necessary for Low Sensitivity properties outside of DWSCs (as identified by the Sensitivity Analysis mapping), unless Council considers it is necessary due to site-specific factors. The minimum Sizing Tables (in the Locality Reports in Appendix B of the Technical Document) will be appropriate for Low and Moderate Risk properties outside of the DWSCs and not within Climate Zone 4 (unless otherwise determined by Council). LCAs and detailed designs will be required for all properties/parcels located within DWSCs and all High and Very High Sensitivity Rating properties/parcels (and any other property/parcel as determined by Council).

Records of development and rezoning applications in unsewered localities provides useful data about development pressures across the Shire and can be used to inform strategic land use and development planning decisions in the unsewered towns/settlements and their surrounds.

### **5.2 Development Potential in Unsewered Localities**

The Colac Otway Shire Rural Living Strategy (2011) investigated existing localities for their future development potential. It identified 'moderate' development potential in Forrest, Beeac, Alvie, Cororooke (apart from Langdons Lane), and Coragulac (all of which are located outside of DWSCs). Detailed assessments and maps of each of these towns/settlements (which include the surrounding locality area) are provided in the Locality Reports in Appendix B of the Technical Document. The results of the Sensitivity Analysis mapping indicate that these localities are generally of Low to Moderate Sensitivity for DWM and therefore could support further expansion with appropriate planning. Obviously other factors such as bushfire implications would also have to be considered.

The Rural Living Strategy (2011) identified Gellibrand, Lavers Hill and Beech Forest as having 'deferred' growth potential, dependent on water catchment constraints and bushfire hazard being satisfactorily addressed. Detailed assessments and maps of each of these localities (including the towns/settlements) are provided in the Locality Reports in Appendix B of the Technical Document. The results of the Sensitivity Analysis mapping indicate that of these three localities, Gellibrand has the most development potential, with a higher proportion of Low and Moderate Sensitivity across the broader locality area compared to Lavers Hill and Beech Forest. This is primarily due to higher rainfall and typically steeper slopes in Lavers Hill and Beech Forest compared to Gellibrand. However, where the long-term sustainability of proposed DWM systems can be supported by appropriately detailed LCA and DWM system design, expansion of these towns is not precluded by the Sensitivity Analysis mapping.

### **5.3 Minimum Lot Size for New Developments**

The Sensitivity Analysis mapping will assist Council in planning for future development and determining minimum lot sizes for future subdivisions. The assessment of a site for wastewater management potential is important as it can assist in understanding the site's potential for development. Historically, wastewater management was overlooked in early planning stages and it has resulted in a number of subdivided parcels within towns and low density residential areas (i.e. settlements) being significantly undersized. Due to small lot size, these parcels have been given a High Sensitivity Rating in the Sensitivity Analysis and generally wastewater management on these parcels is constrained and potentially unsustainable. This does not automatically preclude them from development; however, appropriately detailed LCA and



design will be required to the satisfaction of Council and other stakeholders, including the relevant Water Corporation (in accordance with the Sensitivity Rating). Where DWM is not supported on small properties/parcels, consolidation with adjacent undeveloped properties/parcels (where feasible) is the most likely pathway to allowing development proposals to be considered on the land subject to appropriate zoning of the properties/parcels in question, and approval by Council and other relevant stakeholders. Such approval will also take into account other planning controls relating to the land.

Where rezoning of land is being considered or Structure Plans are being developed, Council can use the Sensitivity Analysis to determine suitable development potential and density. The results of the Sensitivity Analysis mapping and DWM system inspections carried out in September 2014, support a general minimum lot size of 0.4ha (4,000m<sup>2</sup>), assuming that there is adequate 'useable' land for DWM, including a sustainable effluent ~~disposal~~dispersal or reuse system contained entirely within the property/parcel boundary. This minimum lot size is a broad guideline only; detailed LCAs must be carried out for all subdivision and single-lot developments within all DWSCs.

Constrained properties, such as those with steep slopes, very shallow soils or in close proximity to surface waters or groundwater bores, will need to demonstrate that they have adequate available land for the sustainable application of treated effluent. 0.4ha may be too small in such instances; however, innovative building design and lot layout can mitigate constraints on previously undeveloped or redevelopment sites.

## 5.4 Stormwater Management

The field investigations in September 2014 identified stagnant stormwater in road drains in towns/settlements following wet weather, which was exacerbated by the inflow of greywater directly discharged from properties. Improvements to street drainage can be investigated on a needs basis for towns/settlements following the incremental upgrading and/or replacement of DWMs in towns/settlements. However, generally speaking, there is no urgency to upgrade street drains or improve street drainage while greywater connections to street drains persist. Where greywater is found to be discharging to stormwater drains during onsite system audits, upgrade works will be required to the discretion of Council to redirect greywater to the onsite wastewater system and land application area. The progressive upgrade of stormwater drains will improve stormwater drainage in the Shire and would require discussions between the relevant Council departments and fall under the Colac Otway Shire Stormwater Management Plan (2002).

## 6 ~~Effective~~ DWM System Design, Approval, Installation and Operation

This section broadly describes how planning and operation of DWM systems should be carried out by owners in unsewered localities of the Shire, with reference to the Sensitivity Analysis and Risk Assessment Framework described in detail in the Technical Document. The level of detail required to support a proposal for DWM on an unsewered property/parcel is outlined in the relevant LCA, procedure (Section 4.2), which reflects the properties/parcels Sensitivity Rating.

### 6.1 Council's Responsibilities

Council is responsible for issuing permits for new and altered DWM systems under the *Environment Protection Act 1970*. Council is also responsible for the management of all DWM systems within the Shire; this includes the inspection of existing systems and ensuring compliance with Council, EPA and legislative requirements (including the ~~*Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*~~ *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*). This responsibility is explicit where permits have been issued under the Environment Protection Act 1970 by Council, and more generally for all septic systems (with permits or not) with respect to impact on public health under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008.

Council will update and prepare procedures (Refer to the Action Plan in Section 13: Action No. 10) in line with the relevant requirements. The legal requirements of Council include (but are not limited to):

- Application for a 'Permit to Install/Alter' must be completed by the owner/builder/installer and submitted to Council for assessment;
- The system must comply with current Standards and the current EPA Code of Practice;
- Council must issue a 'Permit to Install/Alter' before a DWM system can be installed;
- A Council officer assesses the application and plans and conducts site inspections. Further information may be requested from the applicant;
- Council issues a 'Permit to Install' with approved plans and conditions or refuses application;
- The system must comply with permit conditions and its relevant EPA Certificate of Approval. As detailed in Section 3.2.2 of the Technical Document, the EPA will only issue Certificates of Approval for *types* of systems (i.e. AWTS) from January 2016, pending review;
- The system is inspected by a Council officer during installation;
- Council must issue a 'Permit of Use' before the DWM system can be used;
- Council can issue fines to a system owner if an installation permit is not complied with; and
- Council can issue a Prohibition Notice and/or an Improvement Notice to the owner of a DWM system, to ensure the system ceases to operate and/or is upgraded to appropriately reduce the risk of human or environmental health impacts.

Inspection staff may inspect the site of a proposed DWM system at multiple stages during the assessment and installation process, as determined on a case-by-case basis. Key site inspection milestones can include (but are not limited to):

1. Pre-installation site inspection to ensure the site is suitable for the proposed DWM system (i.e. ground-truthing of the Land Capability Assessment);
2. Inspection during the installation stage, before excavations are back-filled (i.e. trenches are open and the wastewater treatment system has been installed but not backfilled, and not yet turned on), to ensure the system has been installed correctly; and

3. A post-installation inspection to ensure that the installation is complete and that the system is operating correctly.

The number of inspections carried out must be weighed against the available resources (staff time) to carry out the inspections. Low risk sites may require just one inspection, whereas high risk sites may require three or more inspections, depending on the circumstances of each proposal.

Upgrade options for ~~non-compliant~~ poorly performing systems are discussed in further detail in Section 8.

## 6.2 Owners' Responsibilities

The owners and residents (i.e. tenants) of unsewered dwellings and commercial operations have primary responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the DWM system. In accordance with the EPA Code of Practice, owners and occupiers must ensure that the DWM system is operated, maintained and monitored in accordance with Council requirements. This requires a proactive approach from owners and residents to (as a minimum):

- familiarise themselves with the type of system (treatment and land application components);
- identify the location of all system components on the site;
- regularly inspect their system for any signs of problems;
- regularly maintain their system to prevent problems from occurring (or worsening);
- follow any instructions issued by Council pertaining to their system; and
- to upgrade or replace their system where insurmountable problems are occurring.

Details on appropriate DWM system maintenance are provided in Section 6.56 and Section 8 of this Operational Plan. Details on options for upgrading and replacing DWM systems are provided in Section 8 of this Operational Plan. Objectives to achieve better DWM system management ~~by owners and residents are included in the Action Plan in~~ (Section 13-) include:

- ✓ Action 6b – development of a map interface on Councils website for the Sensitivity Mapping, allowing owners to determine individual property/parcel Sensitivity ratings;
- ✓ Action 7 – monitoring and auditing of all DWM systems based on prioritisation detailed in Section 7.4;
- ✓ Action 9 – necessary upgrades or modifications based on existing DWM system permit conditions to ensure compliance; and
- ✓ Actions 11 and 12 – development of a community and owner education program.

## 6.3 LCA Assessor/System Designer's Responsibilities

The EPA Code of Practice outlines minimum requirements for land capability assessors (Section 1.8.3) with regards to qualifications, experience, association, insurances and independence.

The professional engaged to undertake the LCA and the DWM system design has a responsibility to prepare a site-specific DWM design and supporting documentation that demonstrates that the requirements of the SEPP will be ~~met. In addition, the~~ achievable. The LCA must include sufficient information regarding treatment performance (effluent standard) and land application area (sizing and layout) to allow for an appropriate DWM system design to be provided with an application.

The assessor/designer is required to undertake the level of investigation and reporting appropriate to the Sensitivity Rating applied to the property/parcel, as prescribed in Appendix C: Land Capability Assessment Checklists. The following sections provide general advice on

design, installation and maintenance of DWM systems, that applies to all unsewered properties in the Shire.

## 6.4 DWM System Design

### 6.4.1 Treatment Systems

Where a new system or major upgrade works are proposed in COS, the system must comply with the current Standards and Code of Practice. Where an existing system is operating effectively but does not comply with the current EPA Code of Practice or Standards, the system will be monitored; however, unless a failure occurs, the owner will not be required to upgrade or replace the system.

Appendix C of the EPA Code of Practice (2013) provides useful guidance on factors to consider when selecting an EPA-approved DWM system. Site constraints (including for effluent ~~disposal~~~~dispersal~~ or reuse) are a major factor when deciding on a treatment system.

For the installation of new proprietary treatment systems, the selected system must have current accreditation by the EPA. Custom-design treatment systems (e.g. sand filters only) must be designed in accordance with the following:

- EPA Certificate of Approval for Sand Filters No. 1.3/03 (2003); and
- EPA Publication No. 500: Code of Practice for Small Wastewater Treatment Plants (1997).

In addition, the South Australian Department of Health Septic Tank Standard Supplement A: Aerobic Sand Filters (1995) provides useful and detailed information on the design, installation and operation of sand filter systems.

### 6.4.2 Land Application Systems

The key issues that influence the selection and design of land application systems (domestic or commercial) are:

- The level of treatment of the effluent (primary, secondary or advanced secondary);
- Soil characteristics (particularly texture, structure, depth, dispersibility and phosphorus adsorption capacity);
- Site characteristics (particularly slope, aspect and shading); and
- Proximity to sensitive receiving environments (such as surface waters and groundwater).

The degree of constraint for sustainable land application of effluent can be a major factor in selecting a treatment system.

The design of the land application system must be carried out consistently with the two guidelines cited in 6.4.1 above, as well as the *Australian Standard 1547:2012*.

It is preferable to design the land application area based on both a water and nutrient balance (as described in the MAV Model LCA, 2014); however, the level of detail required depends on the risk category of the property/parcel and any other factors as determined by Council and/or the LCA assessor. For Low and Moderate Risk properties, the standard Sizing Tables (Appendix B of the Technical Document) may be used to determine the minimum area for the chosen land application system, based on climate and soils.

There are various options to mitigate constrained sites. For example, it may be appropriate to import lighter-textured topsoil (to appropriate depths) to the land application area in order to increase the DLR/DIR and thereby reduce the minimum required area of the system.

The Sizing Tables for each system type were created using monthly average water balances, using methods described in MAV Model LCA, 2014. Further details are provided in Appendix B of the Technical Document.

## **6.5 Installation**

Often system failures will occur as a result of poor installation practices. The installation of DWM systems must be undertaken by a licensed plumber or system installer who is familiar with the requirements of Council, the Guidelines and Standards, and has experience in installing DWM systems. Issues such as poor drainage around tanks and uneven distribution of effluent throughout trenches or irrigation systems can all result in effluent ponding, runoff or impacts on human and environmental health which can easily be avoided.

## **6.6 Maintenance**

For a system to operate and perform as it was designed, the system must be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's requirements and regular maintenance must be undertaken in accordance with the maintenance procedures outlined in Section 8.2 of this Operational Plan.

By undertaking these regular maintenance tasks a system can operate effectively without major problems; however, a lack of care for any one, or all, of these items can result in system failures.

Secondary treatment systems such as Aerated Wastewater Treatment Systems (AWTS) rely on primary treatment as well as the addition of oxygen for the aerobic breakdown of organic matter by aerobic microbes in a secondary stage which is generally followed by disinfection, usually by chlorine. If there has been poor primary treatment of effluent, it can be detrimental to the secondary treatment process and most commonly disinfection will not be effective. These systems require regular maintenance and monitoring by a qualified service agent in accordance with specific EPA Certificates of Approval.

## 7 Compliance Monitoring

### 7.1 Record Keeping

Electronic database records of applications and permits for DWM systems in the Shire date back to 2002 and hardcopies to the 1970s. The current record system for DWM system applications and permits is as follows:

- Application and permits are electronically registered in the Health Protection Unit's database. Details of the type of system, the permit conditions, the issue dates and the inspection results are kept on the database. This register dates back to 2002. The electronic database is linked to Council's main property/parcel database which allows for the effective integration and recovery of information.
- Hard copy records of plans, permits and inspections notes are kept on the relevant property/parcel files. It is thought that information should be available for most of the DWM systems that have been installed since 1970 (and all since 2002).
- Hard copies of active files are kept by the Health Protection Unit.

It is recommended that key data from all hard copy files for the period 1970-2002 is manually entered into the existing records databases, starting with the active files that have been in recent use (refer to Action No. 3 of Section 13 of the Action Plan). The existing information will be used to inform whether systems are likely to be ~~compliant or non-compliant~~ performing appropriately in terms of their operational risk classification (Section 7.4 below), prior to ground-truthing undertaken during the compliance monitoring program.

### 7.2 Electronic Records of Inspections

The use of a paper based records system for field work can be time consuming and requires extra staff to enter the details into the database upon return to the office. It is recommended that the proposed monitoring program and the existing records database are supported by a portable, hand-held device (e.g. tablet or small laptop) loaded with software that includes the system inspection ~~preform~~ pro-forma (i.e. the inquiry fields to be completed by the Council Officer). The device would also record the GPS coordinates of the system components (tank and application area/s).

In addition, it is recommended that COS investigates the feasibility of an online system linked to the central database whereby service agents and plumbers can log in to record an AWTS service or system maintenance report. This would enable Council staff to cut down on some of the administration duties and increase productivity elsewhere.

However, if resources are limited, the above options should be delayed in order to ensure that adequate staff time is allocated to complete the system inspections, record data and implement the follow-up actions as required by the compliance monitoring.

In the absence of electronic inspection software, hard-copy inspection checklists have been developed based on existing templates in use by COS and current best practice.

Refer to Action No. 4 of the Action Plan in Section 13 for details on the implementation of electronic records.

### 7.3 Fees or Charges for DWM System Owners

Many rural and regional ~~Councils~~ Council's with a high proportion of DWM systems have introduced an annual fee or charge for owners of unsewered properties, to help resource inspection programs as well as education programs. Adequate resourcing is a prerequisite to implementing the DWMP and monitoring its effectiveness. It is recommended that COS investigate the options for implementing an appropriate fee or charge to fund the Actions and programs in this Plan (refer ~~to~~ Action No. 2 of the Action Plan in Section 13).

## 7.4 Risk-Based Compliance Monitoring Program

### 7.4.1 Overview

The effective management of DWM systems requires a robust and well-resourced inspection and compliance program for existing and future systems.

The results of the Sensitivity Analysis (Section 4.1.2) and Prioritisation and Assessment (Section 4.4) were used in the development of the risk-based compliance monitoring program to be finalised and implemented by Council staff. The overarching principle is that the priority and frequency of DWM system inspections is largely determined by the property/parcel Sensitivity Rating as mapped, and the age of the systems (with the oldest, highest risk properties being highest priority). In addition, other factors can trigger case-by-case inspections, of any system, including:

- A complaint made by a member of the public in relation to a system;
- The owners of a system lodge a planning permit to alter the associated dwelling or commercial premises;
- Council reasonably suspects there is a nuisance caused by a system; or
- Where it is a condition of approval that the system be maintained to a certain standard (systems approved since 1996).

The 2007 COS Domestic Wastewater Management Plan described the results of the 2002 audit of properties in unsewered localities, which predicted that within 10 years (from 2002), 77% of systems across the Shire would have reached the end of their serviceability. As this audit is now more than 10 years old, it follows that this milestone has been reached (disregarding incremental replacement and upgrades of some existing DWM systems across the Shire). As such, it is important that all DWM systems are inspected as part of the compliance monitoring program; however, the short-term focus (refer to Action No. 7 of the Action Plan in Section 13) is on those properties where the environmental and human health impact is likely to be the greatest (i.e. High and Very High Risk properties/parcels as shown by the Sensitivity Analysis).

### 7.4.2 Legislation

There are two pieces of legislation applicable to management of domestic onsite wastewater management, the *Environment Protection Act 1970*, which deals with new septic systems, historic systems with permits and the setting of current standards for onsite waste management, and the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* that covers all septic systems insofar as they may pose a nuisance (that is they are, or are likely to be, objectionable or injurious to health).

Each piece of legislation has different, but compatible objectives, and requirements for the exercising of powers by authorised officers and mechanisms that may apply to improvement of septic systems.

### 7.4.2.4.3 Inspection Program

Council has carried out inspections of all (except for the historical records entered into the database, e.g. pump-out receipt records) the existing DWM systems with permits within the Shire to date; at least once for each system. However, records are not available for every inspection carried out (particularly older systems). All system inspection records are to be incorporated into the wastewater management database; including data entry for pre-2002 hard-copy files and revisiting properties for which no records were created.

The inspection program involves:

1. Permit approval inspections;
2. Compliance inspection;
3. Unpermitted system detection and capture; and
4. Ad-hoc inspection by request or complaint.



### Permit approval process:

Council inspects a DWM system prior to approving it for use.

### Compliance inspection:

Compliance inspection will continue on an ongoing ~~bases~~ basis; however, it is ~~likely~~ considered that extra ~~(equivalent to 1-2 staff)~~ staff resources will be required in the first 2-3 years of the program, to address the back-log of system inspections ~~required. To clear some of the backlog for compliance audits, a targeted DWM system audit program will be undertaken. -The~~

~~Resource estimates indicate that approximately 364 person days will be required over the 3 year implementation cycle, with ongoing compliance efforts requiring approximately 0.5-1.0 FTE.~~

Very High and High ~~Sensitivity Ratings~~ sensitivity rating properties/parcels should be assessed as a priority before ~~addressing~~ Medium ~~Sensitivity~~ sensitivity rating properties/parcels ~~- over the remainder of the DWMP timeframe.~~

Table 8 in Section 4.4 details the prioritisation for the targeted localities with regards to their DWM sensitivity. Council will use this priority to inform ~~list in~~ the order of the inspections.

~~To clear some of the backlog for compliance audits, a targeted DWM system audit program will be undertaken.~~ Action 7 of the Action Plan (Section 13) details the projected timeframes for completion and the resources required.

### Unpermitted system detection and capture:

Identification of improved properties without a record of permit will be undertaken using indicative data. An approach based on a case-by-case basis will be used to ensure these unpermitted systems comply with current legislation.

### Ah-hoc inspection by request or complaint:

Inspections can be made in response to nuisance complaints from system owners or the general public or in response to other actions as Council deems appropriate, on a case-by-case basis.

An overview of the inspection program is provided below in the following stages:

1. All of the properties/parcels assigned a Very High or High Sensitivity Rating should be investigated as a priority, within two years of implementation of this DWMP;
2. All of the properties/parcels assigned a Moderate Sensitivity Rating should be investigated after the completion of stage 1, within 3-4 years of implementation of this DWMP;
3. Subsequently, all of the properties/parcels assigned a Low Sensitivity Rating should be investigated after the completion of stages 1 and 2 as required.

Where inspections of individual towns/settlements are required to develop or revise planning strategies or other reports, low-priority properties/parcels in the locality can be inspected before high-priority properties/parcels in other localities, at the discretion of Council officers.

Other factors also need to be taken into consideration with regards to the inspection program and are as follows:

- Properties with septic tanks and trenches should be inspected as a priority within each risk classification group;
- Properties older than 30 years (pre 1985) should be inspected prior to newer systems within each risk classification group;
- All properties with a Section 173 Agreement under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* relating to DWM will be inspected within 3 years of the implementation of this DWMP (regardless of the operational risk classification or Final Sensitivity rating) and a report will be forwarded to the relevant Water Corporations;



- Additional inspections can be made in response to nuisance complaints from system owners or the general public or in response to other actions as Council deems appropriate, on a case-by-case basis.

#### **7.4.37.4.4 Inspection Protocol**

Appendix D provides ~~an example~~ system inspection ~~proforma~~pro-forma covering virtually all possible attributes that may be used to record details and observations in the field, for entering into Council's database.

In summary, the ~~proforma records~~inspection should record key DWM system information, including (but not limited to):

- exact location and GPS coordinates of system components
- type of treatment and land application systems
- performance and compliance of systems (e.g. if there are any maintenance issues which need to be addressed, and their urgency)

The results of inspections are highly valuable for improving and refining the risk assessment tools and for providing a rationale for the rectification or replacement of poorly functioning DWM systems.

Section 8 outlines the various methods for rectification or upgrade works which may be required following an inspection of a system.

## **8 Onsite System Maintenance and Upgrade Options**

### **8.1 ~~Non-compliant~~Under-performing Systems**

The potential management strategies for failing systems include the repair, improvement or replacement of systems (or components). The high priority localities (detailed in Table 8, Section 4.4) will form the focus of improvement works in terms of the implementation of this DWMP. Every effort will be made to ensure owners are aware of their responsibilities and are willing to commit resources to such projects.

However, it is recognised that many existing DWM systems are several decades old and/or are located on properties/parcels that may be unsuitable for DWM. Existing systems may be undersized or have direct greywater discharge off-lot, in most cases approved by Council at the time they were installed.

While it is now clear that such practices are no longer appropriate and may be creating unacceptable risks, it is acknowledged that many of these problems will take time to rectify.

#### **8.1.1 Addressing Compliance**

Stage 4 of the Risk Assessment Framework (see Figure 2b) outlines the procedure for managing existing DWM systems in the Shire through regular (risk-based) inspection, monitoring and improvement (upgrade or rectification).

Actions 9a-d in Section 13 of this Operational Plan outline Council's objectives, intentions and resource commitments in this regard.

It is not intended that the inspection and compliance program take a 'hard-line' approach and require all ~~non-compliant~~under-performing systems to be upgraded immediately. However, a commitment is required from owners, Council, and State and regional management entities to improve DWM practices in a progressive and incremental manner, with a focus on high-priority ~~systems~~localities and/or systems. Sections 8.3 to 8.5 (following) outline the range of options available to COS to improve DWM performance in the Shire.

Implementation of the DWMP (including compliance monitoring and improvement) will be reviewed internally by Council (Actions 17a-c) and audited externally (Action 15b) within 3 years of commencement.

## 8.2 Maintenance of Existing Systems

The following maintenance actions should be undertaken by the owner or a qualified service agent in order to minimise the risk of system failure (compliant and ~~non-compliant~~under-performing systems alike):

- Regular desludging of septic or primary tank as required by EPA Certificates of Approval for each type of system. The 2007 Plan noted that failure to regularly desludge septic tanks caused the majority of preventable problems with onsite systems, as evidenced by plumbers servicing unsewered areas. A pump-out should significantly improve performance; however, this will not rectify existing damage to the ~~disposal~~dispersal areas resulting from excess suspended solids;
- Checking of all system chambers and other checks as required by system manufacturers for secondary systems;
- Addition of chlorine for disinfection where an AWTs with chlorination is used;
- Ensuring householders do not discharge chemicals used within the house to the system i.e. bleaches, antibacterial cleaning products, paints, dyes etc.;
- Ensuring that the system is not turned off at any time;
- Responding to system alarms as this usually indicates a system failure or problem;
- If the secondary treatment system (of any type) is more than five years old, then effluent samples should be collected for analysis of BOD<sub>5</sub>, TSS and faecal coliforms/*E. coli* to assess whether the system is still functioning to its specification and achieving the target effluent quality as prescribed by EPA Victoria; and
- Ensuring sprinklers or irrigation area is maintained, i.e. lawn mowing, checking that sprinklers/distribution lines are not damaged and that flushing of lines is undertaken periodically.

By undertaking these regular maintenance tasks, a compliant system can be expected to operate effectively without major problems. Maintenance measures can also benefit ~~non-compliant~~under-performing systems by mitigating the risks posed by the system failure (e.g. if an irrigation area is surcharging effluent, it is preferable that the effluent is disinfected).

System modification and upgrade options for failing or undersized systems are discussed below.

## 8.3 Modifications for Existing Systems

In some cases, it is not necessary to replace ~~of~~ all of the system components. Risks from defective DWM systems can be appropriately managed by modifying a system. The required modifications should be determined on a case-by-case basis, and discussed with Council prior to implementation. If existing septic tanks are to be modified or repaired, they must be structurally sound and adequately sized for the number of bedrooms in the dwelling. Otherwise, they should be replaced with an adequately sized septic tank.

Typical modifications are discussed below.

### 8.3.1 Install Service Riser for Septic Tank Access

Inaccessible tanks (those that have been buried or built over) are highly unlikely to be inspected or pumped out as regularly as is required for optimum system performance (3-5 years for pump outs as recommended by AS/NZS 1547:2012). Tanks are often installed completely below ground to achieve minimum fall for gravity drainage from the dwelling; however, buried septic tanks often result in owners not knowing where the septic tank is (especially after properties change ownership). Non-accessible tanks were common in the audits of existing systems in the Shire undertaken by the consultants and were deemed to be in an unsatisfactory condition as a

result, due to the very high likelihood that the tank had not been adequately serviced or desludged.

Service risers are typically made from concrete or high density plastic and must be installed by a suitably experienced professional (such as a plumber). Care should be taken to ensure that tank and riser lids, and any other potential inlet points, are protected from groundwater and surface water ingress.

### 8.3.2 Minor Repairs

The structural integrity and design of the septic tank also determine its suitability for continued use. Generally, the older a septic tank, the more likely it is to have cracks, missing components (e.g. outlet 'T junctions'), poorly sealed access openings, corrosion, or other physical problems. It is possible to mitigate or repair these issues, and the estimates have assumed a nominal cost of \$500 per identified tank to carry out minor repairs. Repairing cracks will need to be done when the tank is empty (after it has been pumped out), with care taken to ensure that all cracks are identified and repaired.

AWTS and sand filter components can often require repair or replacement following flooding, electrical faults or pump failure. Pumps can be removed and replaced when necessary and internal pipes can be replaced where necessary if they have been dislodged or damaged. A suitably qualified service agent or the system manufacturer should undertake these repairs.

### 8.3.3 Install Outlet Filters in Septic Tanks

The simplest way to improve the performance of a standard septic tank is to retrofit the outlet pipe with an outlet filter. Filters of various designs are commercially available and can provide significant solids retention. Filters have a large surface area to limit clogging and reduce maintenance requirements. Filters can reduce the impacts of solids carry over to the land application area or secondary treatment system. Filters should be removed and cleaned (hosed onto grass or gardens with limited human and animal contact) and replaced in the septic tank at least twice per year.

## 8.4 Upgrade/Replacement of Existing Systems

Where a new system, or major upgrade works, are required (i.e. substantial repair, expansion or replacement of either the treatment system and/or land application system), the system must comply with the current Standards and EPA Code of Practice.

Where an existing system is shown to be operating effectively but does not comply with the current EPA Code of Practice or Standards, then the system should be monitored. However, unless a failure occurs, effluent is discharging off-site (particularly within a DWSC), or a house extension/modification is proposed, the owner should not be required to upgrade or replace the system as long as it is performing as per the original permit conditions. ~~(This (this~~ situation is common for older homes where trenches may be undersized for the number of bedrooms, but only one or two people are living in the dwelling).

Replacement of systems and system components should be carried out according to the site-specific conditions and requirements of the property/parcel, and by an appropriately qualified and experienced person. Common upgrade and replacement options for DWM systems are discussed below.

### 8.4.1 Enforcement of Upgrade Works

Under the *Environment Protection Act 1970*, Councils have the power to enforce compliance with Council permits, Certificate of Approval conditions and issue penalty infringement notices to premises where owners do not have their system regularly maintained by a professional service technician.

In addition the SEPP Waters of Victoria (Clause 32) prohibits offsite discharge of wastewater from onsite wastewater management systems to stormwater drains, waterways or beaches. COS will endeavour to liaise with an occupier to ensure upgrade works are undertaken;

however, in some circumstances enforcement will be required to ensure compliance with the Environment Protection Act 1970.

Enforcement will either proceed under the *Environment Protection Act 1970* if the conditions or maintenance requirements of a permit are not being complied with, or the system has been installed without a permit, using an infringement notice or summons to court. If the failing system does not have a current permit (age) then an Improvement Notice may be issued under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008, if the failing system is found to be a nuisance (detrimental to health or offensive).

To aid in the management of DWM systems and to allow a proportionate response, the development of Local Laws will be investigated.

#### **8.4.2 Replacement of Septic Tanks**

It is envisaged that where simple repairs and pump-outs fail to meet compliance standards, existing septic tanks will require complete replacement, due to being undersized, structurally unsound and/or discharging effluent inappropriately.

Where appropriate, septic tanks can be replaced with another septic tank, in accordance with a LCA report and design for the property's/parcel's specific circumstances. However, for permanently-occupied premises, it is likely that an upgrade to a secondary treatment system will be the preferred outcome (in accordance with a site-specific LCA and design report by an appropriately qualified professional).

All proprietary treatment systems must have current accreditation from the EPA, which is called a Certificate of Approval.

Secondary treatment systems allow greater flexibility for land application options for the treated effluent. The existing trenches can be used to receive the secondary effluent from a new treatment system, with or without trench rejuvenation (discussed below) as required. Alternatively, the existing trenches can be decommissioned (and rehabilitated with clean soil where required) and replaced with a different land application system (including irrigation systems).

Where existing septic tanks are performing adequately (or have this capability), they can be retained and used as part of the secondary treatment system. The suitability of the existing tank for this purpose needs to be thoroughly assessed by a suitably qualified wastewater professional. In most cases, it will be more straightforward to decommission the septic tank and replace it with a new treatment system. Disposal options for decommissioned septic tanks include collapse and in-fill, removal to off-site landfill, or appropriate sterilisation for non-potable water storage; in accordance with the current EPA Code of Practice.

#### **8.4.3 Upgrades, Extensions and Replacements for Trenches**

Trenches and beds have relatively small footprint areas and rely substantially on effluent absorption, thus imposing high loading rates on the soil. This increases the risk of systems being overloaded and failing hydraulically in the long term, with potential adverse health and environmental impacts. Furthermore, prolonged effluent application through absorption systems increases the risk of soil degradation by increasing salinity and sodicity, as well as the development of a 'clogging layer.' Over time, the organic load in effluent forms a clogging layer in the soil around the trench, which reduces the porosity of the soil and limits soil absorption of effluent. Higher suspended solids concentration in the primary-treated effluent increases the rate of development of the clogging layer. The suspended solids concentration of septic tank effluent generally increases as the pump out rate decreases (particularly if there is no outlet filter installed).

A range of options for upgrading or replacing trenches and beds is provided below. Site constraints, particularly available suitable space, will determine what options are feasible, and will be determined on a case by case basis as part of the recommended servicing strategy. Properties with inadequate suitable space to replicate or extend their trenches will be most

suited to trench rejuvenation, and potentially replacement of the septic tank with a secondary treatment system.

### **Trench Rejuvenation**

Provided the trenches are structurally sound and the clogging layer is not excessively developed, it is possible to 'rejuvenate' existing trenches by oxidising the clogging layer, either using an oxidising chemical, physical aeration (compressed air blowers) or both. This technique in combination with septic tank pump-out (if required) and installation of an outlet filter has good potential to improve overall system performance, and is relatively low-cost. This solution will only be appropriate as a long-term solution on properties/parcels with adequate available space for effluent ~~disposal~~ **dispersal** and if the existing trench system is appropriately sized for the number of occupants or number of bedrooms. However, it could be a valuable interim solution for properties/parcels without adequate available space, prior to implementation of a compliant solution.

### **Replace, Replicate or Expand Trenches**

Where rejuvenation is not an option (e.g. if trenches are physically damaged or collapsed), there is scope for trenches to be excavated and replaced in-situ, using imported materials including topsoil (preferably loam or sandy loam) and improving the existing subsoils (see below). This is the most feasible option for small properties/parcels, or where other areas have been used for other improvements.

If there is adequate available space elsewhere on the property/parcel that has not been used for trenches previously, it is likely to be more straightforward and cost-effective to replicate the trenches in this area. This is more likely to be achievable on larger properties/parcels.

If the existing trenches are undersized, and there is adequate suitable space adjacent to the terminal ends of the trenches, then the trenches can be extended to the minimum required size (as described in the Sizing Tables). The existing section of trench can also be rejuvenated to improve performance, or replaced if required.

### **Soil Amelioration**

In practice, the most limiting layer to water movement is usually the heavier textured, clayey subsoil in the profile. Quite often, the soil chemistry of this layer is dominated by adsorbed sodium ions and/or magnesium ions, causing the clay particles to be easily dispersed and mobilised when in contact with water. When used for effluent dispersal these clay particles move down with the percolating water and clog up the fine pores, thus reducing the soil's permeability.

Subsoil clay that is dispersive must be treated with gypsum (calcium sulphate) to counteract the excessive sodium and magnesium and bring about a strong flocculated condition of the clay particles.

Shallow topsoil or topsoil that is too sandy may also limit the growth of the vegetation in the land application area. For optimal growth of typical vegetation used with DWM systems, the topsoil should be at least 250mm deep and have at least 5% organic matter.

### **Alternative Trench Designs**

Over the years there have been various modifications to conventional absorption trenches and beds, some of which have been developed into proprietary 'off-the-shelf' products including various brands of self-supporting arch drains and the *Advanced Enviro-Septic™* modular trench.

Other modified designs are based on existing technologies which, although not **all are** formally approved, have been shown to enhance performance. One recent example of this is the '**wickWick**' trench, developed for use in clay soils as an alternative to standard absorption trenches (referred to in the current EPA Code of Practice as a '**wickWick** trench or bed'). This system can be described as a conventional absorption trench adjacent to a shallower evapotranspiration/absorption bed, with a continuous layer of geotextile fabric laid under the

trench and up into the evapotranspiration bed. The geotextile acts as a wick, using capillary movement, to distribute some of the effluent over the transpiration bed adjacent to the trench. This provides a larger surface area than would be available using the trench alone, with a greater potential for evapotranspiration and greater infiltration capacity. Typically the evapotranspiration/absorption bed is approximately twice the width of the trench. This option requires a larger area than conventional trenches, but smaller than that required for irrigation.

## **8.5 Decentralised or Clustered Wastewater Management**

Where local conditions (including dwelling density and layout) allow, it may be feasible for small groups of properties to enter into a decentralised servicing arrangement whereby raw wastewater or primary-treated effluent is collected from each property/parcel in a common pipe, for off-site treatment and discharge, or treatment and discharge on one or more of the serviced properties/parcels. Systems include pressure sewer, vacuum sewer and Common Effluent Discharge (CED) systems.

This option is unlikely to be further explored by landowners due to the complexity involved. This option would best be classified as a commercial wastewater system and would require investigations and approvals by a range of stakeholders (including, but not limited to, Council and the relevant Water Corporations). Off-site treatment and/or disposal is likely to trigger the regulatory involvement of the EPA. EPA Works Approval and licencing is discussed below. Options for connection to reticulated sewerage or a decentralised cluster system are typically more expensive when compared to onsite alternatives.

## 9 Commercial Wastewater Management Systems

### 9.1 Overview

Wastewater Treatment Systems with a design capacity between 5,000 - 100,000L/day require Works Approval from the EPA. Systems in this range which discharge solely to land in accordance with specification acceptable to EPA are exempt from ongoing licensing. Acceptable practices are defined in guidance material, the EPA Vic Guidelines for Wastewater Re-Use, Publication 464. As of May 2015 there are 2 commercial premises within COS which have undergone the EPA Works Approval process but are not licensed.

The Environment Protection (Scheduled Premises and Exemptions Regulations) 2007 define which activities require EPA Works Approval and licensing under the Environment Protection Act. A Works Approval is statutory document which allows scheduled works to be constructed, subject to whatever conditions the EPA deems appropriate as part of the assessment process. As part of the approval process, the EPA assesses any potential environmental impacts from the proposal, ways to mitigate any impacts, compliance with policy requirements (including protection of beneficial uses), and comments from referral agencies and the general public.

Systems with a design capacity greater than 100,000 L/day are subject to works approval as above and also to ongoing licensing from the EPA. The EPA licences set acceptable waste discharge and management criteria. They are publically available documents that can be viewed at <http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/our-work/licences-and-approvals/search-licence>. In some cases, the EPA may approve an exemption from the need to obtain Works Approval for current licence holders who are upgrading an existing system. The EPA periodically inspects all licenced sites, with the frequency informed by a range of factors related to the degree of environmental risk posed by the site. Targeted inspections can also be made based on intelligence and pollution report information. Licenced sites are required to submit an Annual Performance Statement detailing their performance against the licence conditions. These are also public documents that can be searched on the above link. The EPA conducts a combination of targeted and random assessments of Annual Performance Statements. As of May 2015, the EPA notified Council that there are 3 licenced wastewater discharge sites in COS.

There are other types of industrial activity (not wastewater treatment) that are not directly regulated under the Environment Protection (Scheduled Premises and Exemptions Regulations) 2007 that still have potential to impact on water quality. Examples include dairy farm effluent management and stormwater from commercial and light industrial operations, particularly in unsewered areas. The EPA has a role in pollution prevention and response in these activities. The EPA's approach to these issues is outlined in the Compliance and Enforcement Policy, Publication 1388. The Compliance and Enforcement Policy articulates the EPA's approach, method and priorities for ensuring compliance with Council's Acts and carrying out Council's compliance and enforcement powers

Council is responsible for the management of all wastewater systems <5,000L/day, which includes some commercial systems. It is important to note that commercial enterprises, such as small factories and cafes operating in unsewered areas, often generate less than 2,000L of wastewater per day and therefore are regarded from an operational perspective as domestic systems. The characteristics of the wastewater will differ from a typical residential dwelling, but the wastewater is expected to contain the same broad ranges of contaminants (unless the commercial enterprise is producing high strength or unusual wastes, such as small-scale food, alcohol or chemical processing, in which case it should be regarded as a commercial development). Commercial enterprises generating up to 5,000L/day in Colac Otway Shire include (but are not limited to) restaurants, pubs, tourist accommodation, adventure parks, dairies, breweries and food processing facilities.

There is limited available information on the performance of commercial systems in the Shire. ~~COS have identified importance of gathering all of the commercial system data for the Shire,~~



~~which is noted as Action 8 in the Action Plan.~~ Commercial systems within COS will be managed as per the same criteria as domestic systems, with some consideration for the specific waste stream. Generally speaking, commercial treatment plants are often the same age as the development they service, and are upgraded or replaced only when a noticeable problem is observed, and/or the development is modified to alter (usually increase) design flows (e.g. expanding operations).

Without proactive enforcement from the regulator, system maintenance, monitoring and record-keeping can become lax over time, with system performance suffering as a result. Generally speaking, older commercial systems are often non-compliant with current expectations and standards (e.g. are licenced to discharge treated effluent to surface watercourses or within watercourse buffers). However, they continue operating until improvements are triggered, typically by the identification of problems, the redevelopment of the premises, or proactive intervention by regulators, local government or other agencies.

Whilst COS do not have ultimate regulatory responsibility for all commercial systems in the Shire, the DWMP identifies the importance of actively managing commercial system data for the Shire. Objectives to achieve better management of larger DWM systems in the Action Plan (Section 13) include:

- ✓ Action 8a – scheduled audits of all commercial systems (2,000 - ≤5,000L/day); and
- ✓ Action 8b – regularly updating details of EPA licenses for all commercial systems (>5,000L/day) in the Shire, including provision of O&M plans where applicable.

COS will work closely with EPA to ensure the database remains current.

## 9.2 Risks Associated with Commercial Systems

The most common causes of failure or underperformance of commercial wastewater treatment systems include the following:

- Surge loads, e.g. peak holiday seasons or production cycles in factories;
- Irregular and/or ineffective maintenance and upgrades;
- Inadequate desludging; and
- AWTs and other aerobic systems being switched off for long periods of time, leading to die-off of aerobic microorganisms and delayed start-up and poor performance when switched back on.

The most common causes of failure or underperformance of commercial effluent ~~disposal~~dispersal or reuse systems include the following:

- Inappropriate design, including undersized land application area for peak loads (without appropriate load buffering);
- Inadequate setback buffers from sensitive receptors, such as watercourses, which no longer meet the minimum buffers in the current EPA Victoria Code of Practice;
- Poor or inappropriate installation;
- Inadequate maintenance, including regular back-flushing of irrigation systems with clean water to prevent solids build-up and delays to repairs (e.g. broken sections of pipe); and
- ‘Creeping failure’ of trench and bed systems as soils and media become blocked with suspended solids from poorly designed and/or poorly maintained treatment systems.

## 9.3 Management Strategies for Commercial Systems

### 9.3.1 Wastewater Treatment Systems

All commercial wastewater treatment systems should have an up-to-date Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Plan or Manual which includes a diagram of the system and provides



instructions for all maintenance schedules required for the system, and details of who is responsible for the management and maintenance of the system.

Regular maintenance by appropriately trained staff and/or contractors is essential. Depending on the scale and complexity of the treatment system, and the nature of the wastewater to be treated, daily low-level maintenance may be required. This can often be carried out by regular, appropriately trained, staff (e.g. checking effluent levels, visually checking and/or testing samples of effluent for treatment performance, etc.). More specialised maintenance must be carried out by appropriately qualified and experienced personnel.

Routine inspections of the wastewater treatment and land application systems at EPA-licensed commercial properties should be carried out by an appropriately qualified and experienced contractor. The contractor should be independent, i.e. not an employee or regular contractor of the owner of the premises. More recent EPA licences typically include a schedule of inspections.

Council is responsible for monitoring commercial systems <5,000L/day. These systems should be included in the Council inspection program and, where problems or complaints are received, Council should assess and manage the system in a similar fashion to a domestic system and also inform the EPA of the investigation. The EPA is responsible for carrying out additional investigations at its own discretion, including in response to complaints about a system from Council or members of the public.

Council is required to maintain a database of all commercial systems within COS; this data base will also include a list of EPA Works Approved sites as well as EPA licensed premises. This database will be maintained and updated annually and include any maintenance records of the premises (commercial 2,000-5,000L/day) under Council control. This is included in the Action Plan (Action No. 8b).

### **9.3.2 Effluent Management Systems**

The issues surrounding selection, design, installation and maintenance of commercial-scale effluent management systems are largely the same as for domestic systems. However, potential problems associated with scale and flow-balancing are introduced with large and/or irregular effluent flows. For seasonal developments, part of the effluent land application area may need to be switched off, or alternatively the off-season (reduced) effluent load can be distributed throughout the entire area over longer time periods using a flow sequencing control system.

All effluent management areas require regular maintenance and should be closely monitored to ensure effective operation and even distribution of effluent. An Operation and Maintenance Manual or Plan should be developed (if not in existence) and regularly referred to by staff and contractors. Land application areas that are turfed will require regular mowing (and lawn clippings removed from the area). Other vegetation types should be pruned and maintained as necessary to ensure nutrients are being removed by plant uptake.

Commercial systems less than 5,000L/day should be serviced and maintained in accordance with the system manufacturer's requirements. Secondary treatment systems will require servicing quarterly; however, some commercial systems will require daily monitoring by an onsite system operator. Results of system servicing should be submitted to Council on a quarterly basis or in accordance with the system conditions of approval to operate. Where system maintenance records are not supplied to Council as required, follow up action should be taken by Council to ensure the system is serviced appropriately.

Commercial systems which are licensed by the EPA will require effluent quality monitoring (at the outlet point of the treatment system) to ensure the effluent quality meets the requirements for its end use. For example, surface irrigation requires disinfection (indicated by concentrations of pathogen indicator organisms, as well as residual chlorine levels, if chlorine is the method of disinfection used).

## 10 Educational Programs

COS currently uses DWM systems inspections as an opportunity to educate system owners 'one-on-one' in order to improve system maintenance and performance. In addition, the COS website has an extensive section dedicated to DWM in the Shire, which explains how owners and residents of unsewered properties can best manage their systems in order to protect human and environmental health. This online content is supported by printed publications which are available at Council offices and are given to owners and residents during system inspections where appropriate. There is scope for printed and online information to be updated to reflect the revised DWMP and Victorian government documents (including the current EPA Code of Practice) and to provide more useful guidance and information for home owners and residents (see Section 10). The education program is outlined in the Action Plan in Section 13 (Action Numbers 12 & 13).

## 11 Downstream Water Quality Monitoring

~~Currently, COS undertakes~~has historically undertaken regular sampling of ~~targeted drains and streams~~waterways to monitor the level of *E. coli* contamination of ~~wastewater, as well as other parameters~~recreational waterways. ~~CCMA sponsored WaterWatch community groups undertake water quality testing (excluding bacterial) at some variety of locations (including Electrical Conductivity, e.g. electrical conductivity (EC),~~ sodium concentration, pH and nutrients). High pH, EC and sodium together can indicate the presence of greywater contamination as laundry products are typically alkaline and have a high salt content (as a filler in powder detergents). However, *E. coli* is not human-specific and high concentrations can be caused by other animals (including livestock) and birds (including wetland birds), and the forestry industry can impact on downstream water quality.

~~A Water Quality Monitoring Program is undertaken by Council and the Catchment Management Authorities where water samples are collected at a number of significant points throughout the Shire; water quality sampling is undertaken for monitoring of recreational areas as well as drinking water catchment areas. In addition, regular testing of ground and surface water for faecal and nutrient contamination can be undertaken, to indicate problem areas and to help assess the effectiveness of Council management practices for DWM systems. There should also be a review of the~~The EPA is responsible for environmental monitoring and the Catchment Management Authorities also undertake water quality monitor programs.

COS should review existing water quality data collected by other authorities in the Shire (including Water Corporations), where this data is relevant and available. A detailed water quality monitoring program is beyond the scope of this DWMP and could form part of a broader water quality monitoring program that considers a range of regional stakeholders and objectives.

It is recommended that human-specific contamination indicators should be targeted for downstream water quality testing, to rule out non-human sources of generic contaminants (pathogens, nutrients and chemical compounds). Commonly used indicators include:

- Optical brighteners used in laundry detergents (especially soaking detergents); and
- Faecal sterol compounds.

While it is desirable that a monitoring program is undertaken to at least establish a baseline for future analysis, improving septic system performance will positively impact water quality and reduce the impact of human specific contamination.

Targeted sampling is more costly and can be carried out periodically (e.g. every two years).

## 12 Risk Mitigation in DWM Design and Installation

The DWM risks identified across unsewered areas in the DWMP are based on the predominance of standard (primary) septic tanks with conventional absorption trenches throughout the Shire (as confirmed by Council records and supported by field investigations). The summary table below outlines some possible ways these risks can be mitigated.

**Table 9: Risk Mitigation for various constraints**

Risk Category	Issue	Possible solutions	Methods	Benefits
Soils	Poor soils make it difficult for the site to contain effluent.	Enhanced treatment of effluent.	Septic System and Sand Filter.	Passive system; only uses electricity for pumps. Sand life should exceed 10 years before replacement.
			AWTS 20/30.	Higher standard of treatment suitable for sub-surface effluent <del>disposal</del> dispersal in poorer soils.
			AWTS 20/30/10.	Disinfection stage decreases public health risk. Higher standard of treatment suitable for sub-surface effluent <del>disposal</del> dispersal in poorer soils.
		Remediate soils.	Addition of gypsum/lime as per LCA recommendation.	Can assist in improving effluent adsorption capabilities of dispersive soil.
		Import better quality soils.	Sandy loams, loams and clay loams with <10% gravel content.	Soils can be selected for suitable characteristics (e.g. permeability) and also increase profile depth.
Slope	Steep slopes can be destabilised by effluent, and it is difficult to contain effluent onsite.	Terracing.	Reduce slopes by creating flatter areas (ensure soil depth is adequate if using cut and fill).	Ease of access and maintenance (e.g. mowing) and other controls (e.g. erosion).
Lot size	The smaller the property/parcel the less area is available for effluent <del>disposal</del> management.	Reduce house size (number of bedrooms).	To be done at the planning and design stage.	If a house is smaller with fewer occupants it will generate less wastewater.
		Reduce footprint of house and other improvements	To be done at the planning and design stage.	To ensure there is enough area to use for effluent <del>disposal</del> dispersal, reduce the space occupied by the house, shed, driveway etc.

<b>Risk Category</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Possible solutions</b>	<b>Methods</b>	<b>Benefits</b>
		Consider mound system as land application option.		Permits highest effluent loading rate per square metre.
<b>Water-courses/ Groundwater Bores</b>	The Code has setback distances from watercourses and groundwater bores.	Ensure entire system (including house) is located outside of setbacks and consider treatment options.	Increase wastewater treatment standard.	Setbacks can be reduced when higher treatment standards (e.g. advanced secondary with disinfection) are used.
<b>Flood Prone Land</b>	Wastewater should not be disposed of in flood prone land.	Ensure entire system (including house) is located away from flood prone land.		Waters are protected from contamination. System is protected from inundation of water which eliminates the potential need for costly system replacement.

### 13 Action Plan Timeline

This Action Plan Timeline outlines the management strategies and actions to address priorities. The Health Protection Unit will have the primary responsibility for the coordination and implementation of the recommendations. Council's Planning, Environment, Infrastructure, Building and GIS staff will assist them.

Item Number	Action	Description	Term	Due Date	Responsibility	Resource Funding
1	Preparation of policies and procedures	<p>Prepare (or revise/finalise) and document the following to ensure they are in line with this DWMP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DWM system inspection procedure and program.</li> <li>Non-compliance with inspection procedure.</li> <li>Complaint inspection procedure.</li> <li>Rectification/upgrade works procedure.</li> <li>Issuing of fines/notice procedure.</li> <li>'Permit to <del>Install</del>Install' procedure.</li> <li>Approval to Use procedure.</li> <li>Compliance and Enforcement Policy.</li> </ul>	Short	<u>December 2015</u>	Health Protection Coordinator	Within current resourcing
2	Fees and Charges	In order to fund the Actions in this Plan, Council will need to consider sustainable options for ensuring appropriate resources.	Short	<u>2015 March 2016</u>	<u>Manager</u> Planning, Building and Health <u>Manager</u>	Within current resourcing
3	Database management	<p>Update/expand Council's DWM system database to record all property/parcel and system details (including from existing hard copy files). Ensure DWM database is linked to the general property/parcel database to alert of change of ownership/development applications etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess suitability of existing system and vendor to support Actions of DWMP.</li> <li>Undertake required works.</li> </ul>	Short	<u>2015 December 2016</u>	Health Protection Coordinator, IT/GIS (assistance)	<p><del>Unknown</del></p> <p>Dependencies IT Health check Quote for works Process mapping</p> <p>Enhancement of IT system <del>not yet</del> costed <del>to be</del> investigated &amp; budget business</p>

Item Number	Action	Description	Term	Due Date	Responsibility	Resource Funding
						<u>case developed</u>  Ongoing data cleansing to be accommodated within current resourcing.
4a	Continuation of improvement of data collection	Update a GIS layer for DWM systems in the Shire. Ensure cadastre (property/parcel data) is routinely updated.	Ongoing	Ongoing	GIS Officer	Within current resourcing
4b		Development of additional fields within database to update Risk Assessment Rating (following system inspection/LCA report).	Short-Medium	<u>December 2016</u>	Health Protection Coordinator; IT/GIS (assistance)	A part of action item 3
4c		Development of geo-referencing of “as constructed plans” and incorporated as a GIS layer.	Medium (Desirable)	<u>2016 June 2017</u>	Health Protection Coordinator; IT/GIS (assistance)	Budget bid / within current resources
5	GIS Training	Train Health Protection Unit in GIS in order to <del>prepare DWM maps as requested</del> <u>manage sensitivity risk information.</u>	Short	<u>December 2015</u>	GIS Officer; HPO; Health Protection Coordinator	Within current resources
6a	Sensitivity Analysis Mapping	Regularly update GIS layer for Sensitivity Ratings as required (following system inspection/LCA report). Printed maps to be updated at least annually.	Ongoing	Ongoing	GIS Officer & HPO	Within current resources

Item Number	Action	Description	Term	Due Date	Responsibility	Resource Funding
6b		Develop <del>an interactive a</del> map interface <del>(interactive if possible)</del> on Council's website of the final <del>Lot</del> Sensitivity <del>map</del> mapping.	Short – ongoing	<del>2015</del> June 2016	GIS Officer, HPO	Within current resources
7a	Implement the Risk-based Compliance Monitoring Program	Determination of properties/parcels within selected areas that contain septic systems	Short-Ongoing	<del>2015-</del> March 2016	Health Protection Coordinator <sub>1,2</sub> , HPO	Within current resources
7b		Targeted system audits within selected towns/settlements	Medium-Long	2016-2019	HPO	364 person days over 3 years
7c		Ongoing	Long	2019+	HPO	0.5-1.0 FTE
8a	Commercial Systems	Undertake system audits of all commercial systems (2,000 <del>xx</del> - ≤5,000L/day).	Short-ongoing	<del>December</del> 2016	HPO	Within current resources (8 person days)
8b		<del>Obtain copies and regularly</del> Regularly update <del>a list</del> details of all EPA licences for all managed commercial systems (ie. >5,000L/day-); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Create a database of commercial systems in the Shire; and</u></li> <li>• <u>Request, or facilitate lodgement of, an Operation and Maintenance Plan for each recorded commercial system with Council (Council has no direct role in managing these systems).</u></li> </ul>	Medium	June 2016	Health Protection Coordinator <sub>1,2</sub> , HPO	Within current resources
9a	Septic Tank (DWM system) Permit Conditions and Compliance	Undertake compliance audits of new installations.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Health Protection Coordinator <sub>1,2</sub> , HPO	Within current resources
9b		Enforce <del>compulsory</del> upgrades of <del>poorly performing</del> systems, as required (case-by-case).	Ongoing	Ongoing	Health Protection Coordinator <sub>1,2</sub> , HPO	0.5 – 1.0 FTE / 4 years
9c		Enforce mandatory maintenance of systems	Medium-	2016-	HPO	

Item Number	Action	Description	Term	Due Date	Responsibility	Resource Funding
		(depending on system type).	Ongoing	Ongoing		
9d		<del>Advocate</del> — <u>Investigate the potential for development and implementation of procedures / legislative measures (e.g. local laws) to allow for effective management of DWM systems that do not hold a permit or applicable conditions, allowing for a proportionate enforcement.</u>	Medium	March 2016	Health Protection Coordinator; <u>Planning, Building and Health Manager</u>	Within current resources
10a	Locality Investigations and Planning	Review Locality Reports in DWMP and system inspection data to inform planning decisions regarding unsewered towns.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Planning, Building and Health Manager; <u>Health Protection Coordinator; HPO</u>	Within current resources
10b		Ensure broader Council planning processes and decisions take into consideration the DWMP and ongoing inspections. Brief all Planning staff on the DWMP.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Health Protection Coordinator; <u>HPO</u>	Within current resources
<del>10c11</del>	System Owners Education Program	<del>Undertake cumulative impact assessments based on town/settlement and sub-catchment priorities. Discuss individual systems with owners during the application process and in response to enquiries from owners.</del> <u>Develop mechanisms to prompt pro-active education upon purchase of property/parcel.</u>	<del>Medium</del> —Ongoing	<del>Ongoing</del> 2016-2017	<u>HPO; Health Protection Coordinator; HPO, external professional</u>	Within current resources
<del>11</del> 12a	<del>System Owners</del> <u>Broader Community Education Program</u>	<del>Discuss individual systems with owners during the application process</del> Provide details about permit process on Council's website. • <u>Promote policies and in response educational materials to enquiries from owner the community and service providers.</u> • <u>Develop mechanisms to prompt pro-active</u>	<del>Short</del> Ongoing	<del>Ongoing</del> March 2016	<del>HPO, Health Protection Coordinator</del> <u>Unit and Community Relations Officer</u>	Within current resources



Item Number	Action	Description	Term	Due Date	Responsibility	Resource Funding
		<del>education upon purchase of property/parcel. Educate future/potential owners of homes with DWM systems.</del>				
<del>42a</del> <b>12b</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>Provide details about permit process on Council's website.</del></li> <li><del>Promote policies and</del> <u>Revise existing educational materials</u> <u>material for distribution to the community residents and on website.</u></li> <li><del>Develop new educational material for distribution to residents and service providers.</del></li> <li><del>Educate future/potential owners of homes with DWM systems on website.</del></li> </ul>	<u>Short-Medium</u>	<u>June 2016</u> <del>2015</del>	Health Protection Unit and Community Relations Officer	Within current resources
<del>42b</del> <b>13a</b>	<b>DWM Professionals Briefing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>Revise existing educational material for distribution to residents and on website.</del></li> <li><del>Develop new educational material for distribution to residents and on website.</del></li> <li><del>Conduct a briefing session and/or potential training with local DWM &amp; LCA consultants, plumbers and system maintenance contractors to inform and educate on the new requirements of the DWMP.</del></li> </ul>	<u>Short-Medium</u>	<del>2015-2016</del> <u>December 2015</u>	Health Protection Unit and Community Relations Officer <u>Coordinator; Professional Consultant</u>	<u>2 x sessions</u> <u>Whitehead &amp; Associates</u> <u>Within current resources</u>
<del>43a</del> <b>13b</b>		<del>Conduct a briefing session and/or potential training with local DWM &amp; LCA consultants, plumbers and system maintenance contractors to inform and educate on the new requirements of the DWMP.</del> <u>Development of 'self-service' GIS information for Plumbers and LCA Assessors</u>	<u>Medium Short</u>	<del>2015</del> <u>December 2016</u>	Health Protection <del>Coordinator, Professional Consultant</del> <u>Unit; GIS Officer; Planning, Building and Health Manager</u>	<u>Within current resources</u> <u>2 x sessions</u> <u>Whitehead &amp; Associates</u>
<del>43b</del> <b>14</b>	<b>Resource</b>	<del>Development of 'self-service' GIS information for</del>	<u>Immediate</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Health</u>	Within current

Item Number	Action	Description	Term	Due Date	Responsibility	Resource Funding
	Allocation	<del>Plumbers and LCA Assessors</del> Investigate budget requirements for the implementation of the DWMP including system monitoring, compliance and enforcement of DWMP (& this Action Plan). • Implementation phase. • Ongoing administration of DWMP.	Medium	2016	<del>Protection Unit, GIS Officer, Manager</del> Planning, Building and Health <del>Manager and Health Protection Coordinator</del>	resources
<del>44</del> 15a	Resource Allocation External Auditing	Investigate <del>staffing options</del> for external auditing to be commenced in order to meet the requirements for the implementation of the DWMP including system monitoring, compliance and enforcement of DWMP (& this Action Plan). • Implementation phase Ongoing administration of DWMP DELWP.	<del>Long</del> Immediate	<del>2015</del> December 2017	<del>Planning, Building and Health Manager and Health Protection Coordinator and Water Corporations</del>	Within current resources
<del>15a</del> 15b		<del>Investigate options for</del> Undertake external auditing to be commenced in order to meet the requirements of DELWP DWMP, including monitoring and enforcement.	Long (to be completed every 3 years)	<del>2017</del> December 2018	Health Protection Coordinator and Water Corporations	<del>Unknown. To be considered in future.</del> Within current resources
<del>15b</del> 16	Future Planning	<del>Undertake external auditing of DWMP, including monitoring and enforcement. This DWMP proposes many actions over the next 3 year implementation cycle. Future planning should be considered for the review in 2018 following audit results and stakeholder feedback.</del>	<del>Long</del> Long (to be completed every 3 years)	June 2018	Health Protection Coordinator and Water Corporations and External Auditor	<del>Within current resources.</del> Unknown. To be considered in future.
<del>16</del> 17a	Reviews Future Planning	<del>This DWMP proposes many Actions over the next 3 years. Future planning should be considered for the review in 2018-6 monthly progress reviews.</del>	<del>Short</del> Long	<del>2018</del> 6 Months after DWMP	Health Protection Coordinator, Water	Within current resources

Item Number	Action	Description	Term	Due Date	Responsibility	Resource Funding
				<u>adoption</u>	<u>Corporations and External Auditor Stakeholders</u>	
<del>17a</del> <u>17b</u>		<del>6-monthly</del> <u>Annual</u> progress review- <u>of 2015 DWMP</u>	<del>Annually</del> <u>6 Months after DWMP Adoption November of each year</u>		Health Protection Coordinator and Stakeholders	Within current resources
<del>17b</del> <u>17c</u>		<del>Annual progress</del> <u>Major (three-yearly) audit and review of 2015 DWMP</u>	<del>Annually</del> <u>Long</u>	<del>-2018 and 2021</del> <u>2016, 2017</u>	Health Protection Coordinator and Stakeholders <u>and External Auditor</u>	Within current resources
<del>17c</del> <u>18</u>	<b>Co-ordination of Council / Water Corporations</b>	<del>Major (three-yearly) audit and review of 2015 DWMP</del> <u>Officers from Council and the Water Corporations to meet 2-3 times per year to ensure the effective management of planning referral processes under the DWMP (i.e. consistency of applications; information requirements and conditions).</u>	<del>Long</del> <u>Ongoing</u>	<del>2018 and 2020</del> <u>Ongoing</u>	Health Protection Coordinator, <u>Stakeholders; Planning, Building and External Auditor Health Manager and Water Corporations</u>	Within current resources

## 14 Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
Aerobic treatment	Biological treatment processes that occur in the presence of oxygen (i.e. aerobic bacteria digest wastewater contaminants). Aerobic bacteria are organisms that require oxygen to survive and grow.
Anaerobic treatment	Biological treatment processes that occur in the absence of oxygen.
Blackwater	Wastewater <u>grossly contaminated with faeces (i.e. from a toilet-)</u> .
Desludging	Removal of the semi solid waste from a tank.
Effluent	Water discharged from a treatment plant.
Evapotranspiration	Transfer of water from the soil to the atmosphere through evaporation and plant transpiration. Calculated using the FAO Penman-Monteith method to derive (ET <sub>0</sub> ).
Organic Matter	Material that comes from the tissues of organisms (plants, animals, or microorganisms) that are currently or were once living.
Greywater	Wastewater from showers, baths, sinks, washing machines, dish washers.
Hardpan	A <del>layer of dense</del> <u>hardened</u> , compacted <del>of hard soil</del> <u>and/or cemented horizon</u> .
Locality	The broader locality surrounding a town (place name within mapped boundaries).
Non-Potable	Water not suitable for human consumption.
Parcel	The smallest unit of land able to be transferred within Victoria's cadastral system, usually having one proprietor or owner (land.vic.gov.au). For the purposes of this DWMP, parcel and lot are given to have the same meaning.
Peds	An aggregate of soil particles.
Permeability	The ability of the soil to allow water to pass through.
P-sorb	Phosphorus adsorption capacity of a soil.
Property	Land under common occupation (land.vic.gov.au). May include multiple parcels.
Sensitivity	The 'likely' consequence of off-site (DWM) impacts based on the cumulative effect of individual property/parcel constraints (soil suitability, slope, useable lot area, climate and location) and variables affecting the specific land capability and associated limitations of the property/parcel to sustainably manage wastewater in compliance with SEPP objectives.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Settlement	An area of residential development within the Rural Living Zone (Barongarook and Kwarren) or Rural Conservation Zone (Barham River).
Sewage	Solid and liquid wastewater conveyed through sewers.
Sewerage	A system of sewers.
Town	The town servicing a locality, which is predominantly, zoned Township Zone. It contains both residential and commercial development.

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Standards Australia/ Standards New Zealand (2008) AS/NZS 1546.1:2008 On-site domestic-wastewater treatment units – Septic tanks.

USEPA (2002) Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Manual. United States Environmental Protection Agency.

## **Appendix A**

### **Evaluation of Wastewater Management Systems**

## **1. Overview**

This Section provides a review of the range of accredited wastewater treatment systems and available land application systems available for domestic and commercial application in Victoria, with particular consideration given to their suitability for use in the study area.

As of July 2015, the EPA will transform all existing Certificates of Approval to 'interim certificates of compliance', which will be valid until the reform is completed, and will start taking new applications for interim certificates of compliance. Any interim certificates issued will be valid until the reform is completed. As of January 2016, the EPA will no longer issue Certificates of Approval (CA) for individual proprietary systems; instead, the EPA will approve types of treatment systems (i.e. the key technology employed by systems, by which systems are categorised). Accreditation of wastewater treatment technologies is routinely reviewed by the EPA and the EPA website should be regularly consulted for an up-to-date list of accredited systems.

## **2. Key issues for System Selection and Design**

### **2.1 Wastewater Treatment**

For domestic and commercial wastewater management systems alike, the key issues that determine the selection of wastewater treatment systems are:

- Flow volumes/loads;
- Flow rates and peaks (including intermittent usage);
- Wastewater strength (particularly organics); and
- The degree of constraint of the site for land application of effluent.

Depending on the nature of the development, these aspects of wastewater management can vary significantly and pose challenges to the system designer and owner. Specialist design is typically required for commercial wastewater streams and for seasonal fluctuations in flows (such as holiday rental properties). Section 4 below discusses each of the treatment technologies widely available, and their opportunities and limitations.

In addition, there are considerations relating to costs and practicalities, such as system footprint and ease of installation and servicing. Appendix C of the EPA Code of Practice (2013) provides useful guidance on the factors to consider when selecting an EPA-approved DWM system.

### **2.2 Land Application of Effluent**

The key issues that influence the selection and design of land application systems (domestic or commercial) are:

- The level of treatment of the effluent (primary, secondary or advanced secondary);
- Soil characteristics (particularly texture, structure, depth, dispersibility and phosphorus adsorption capacity);
- Site characteristics (particularly slope, aspect and shading); and
- Proximity to sensitive receiving environments (such as surface waters and groundwater).

For constrained sites, the preferred effluent management strategy can dictate the level of wastewater treatment required. For example, a small property/parcel with insufficient area to apply the entire effluent load may require a composting toilet with advanced greywater treatment for beneficial reuse to reduce volume of treated effluent being applied to the limited available space. In some cases, there may be no suitable solution, or a pump-out tank may be required to tanker wastewater off-site for disposal at an approved facility.



### 3. Pump-out Systems

Pump-out systems convey raw wastewater or septic tank effluent to a holding tank (also known as a pump-out tank or collection well) for removal by licenced tanker (pump-truck) for disposal in an approved sewer main access hatch or municipal sewage treatment plant (under contract). They are generally regarded as a last resort, typically used to service properties where:

- there is inadequate available space to sustainably assimilate treated effluent by land application;
- existing land application systems have failed and cannot be safely used to apply effluent; or
- the property/parcel will be connected to sewer in future (i.e. an interim solution).

Adequate sizing of holding tanks is important to ensure that adequate storage capacity is provided to allow lead time to arrange a licenced pump-out contractor.

Holding tanks should be fitted with high water level alarms and must incorporate both audible (buzzer) and visual (strobe) alarm components. The following minimum standards are required for high water alarm systems:

- a muting facility for the audible alarm is to be incorporated into the alarm design. The muting facility shall reset to audible after 24-hours;
- the alarm panel shall be located in a visible position within the building or other location approved by Council;
- the float switch shall be set at a level such that on activation, two (2) days storage remains within the collection well; and
- provision of an information sign that provides contact names and telephone numbers should the alarm be activated.

All wastewater or effluent holding tanks should be installed with adequately sealed lids, and positioned, so that they do not impact on existing structures or neighbouring properties and stormwater is diverted around the tanks. Stormwater ingress must be avoided, as it can result in excessive pump out costs and may result in displacement of raw wastewater to the ground surface, posing a significant human health and environmental risk. The tanks must be positioned to allow access by a pump-truck and its vacuum hose attachment.

AS/1547.1:2008 is broadly applicable to the design, installation and maintenance of holding for domestic and small commercial systems.

### 4. Wastewater Treatment Systems

There are currently four broad categories of wastewater treatment system types that are accredited by the EPA:

1. Greywater treatment systems;
2. Combined wastewater or blackwater-only primary treatment systems;
3. Combined wastewater secondary domestic treatment systems; and
4. Combined wastewater secondary commercial treatment systems.

A brief summary of each is provided below. For more detailed information, consult the current EPA Code of Practice. Tables comparing the specific types of treatment and land application systems, and their suitability for use within various areas of the Shire, are provided at the end of this Appendix.

#### 4.1 Greywater Treatment Systems

Greywater treatment systems are accredited to treat laundry, shower, bath, hand-basin and kitchen greywater only. Blackwater (toilet waste) must never be treated in greywater treatment systems. It is preferable that kitchen water is kept separate from the other greywater streams

and treated with the blackwater stream, as kitchen greywater can be relatively high in contaminants compared to other greywater streams. Greywater treatment systems can be useful for upgrading direct-diversion greywater systems where blackwater is to be kept separate, particularly if kitchen wastewater can be re-plumbed to the blackwater septic tank to prevent it entering the greywater treatment system.

Greywater that is treated to advanced secondary standard, in accordance with the current EPA Code of Practice, is of 'advanced secondary' standard that can be used for toilet flushing, cold water supply to clothes washing machines, and surface and subsurface irrigation. Advanced secondary effluent must achieve the following criteria:

- Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD<sub>5</sub>): <10mg/L
- Total Suspended Solids (TSS): <10mg/L
- *E. coli* or thermotolerant coliforms (if disinfected): <10cfu/100mL

This is also referred to as the 10/10/10 standard by EPA Victoria. The nutrient removal performance varies considerably between and within advanced secondary treatment system types. Only greywater systems are accredited by EPA Victoria to achieve this standard. The operational costs of greywater systems can outweigh the benefits of reusing the recycled water. For this reason, they are most commonly used when potable water supply is not reliable (e.g. for households supplied by rainwater tank in a low-rainfall area).

#### **4.2 Primary Treatment Systems**

According to the EPA, there are four broad categories of primary treatment systems (for use with combined wastewater, blackwater only or as pre-treatment for greywater treatment systems):

1. Septic tanks;
2. Incinerating toilets (toilet waste only);
3. Wet composting systems (combined wastewater); and
4. Composting toilets (toilet waste only).

Primary-treated effluent quality can vary considerably, depending on a broad range of factors, and there are no minimum standards specified by EPA Victoria. Incinerating toilets do not produce effluent and composting toilets produce a concentrated leachate, to which effluent quality standards do not apply.

##### **4.2.1 Septic Tanks**

Septic tanks (for combined wastewater or blackwater only) are traditionally the most common type of treatment system in established localities without reticulated sewerage. They can also be used as pre-treatment for greywater treatment systems, although this is far less common. The technology is passive, whereby wastewater is gravity fed to a single tank (typically concrete or plastic), ideally fitted with a baffle and inlet and outlet 'T-pieces' to prevent extrusion of solids into the trenches or backflow to the inlet. Dense solids settle to the bottom of the tank to form sludge, while a lower-density scum forms at the surface (comprised of cellulose, fats, oils, grease and other materials). Anaerobic digestion of colloidal and dissolved organic solids occurs, and some nitrogen and phosphorus is also removed. The primary-treated effluent is discharged by gravity for further treatment in a secondary treatment system or to a land application system suitable for primary effluent (such as trenches, beds or a mound).

Septic tanks should be pumped out before sludge build-up or scum thickness reduces the available capacity for wastewater detention to the point where treatment efficacy is being impacted. Depending on tank capacity, household occupancy and influent strength, the pump-out period would be required every 3-5 years for combined wastewater and blackwater septic tanks (the EPA currently requires septic tanks be desludged every three years to ensure maximum effectiveness), and about 10-15 years for greywater only.

Septic tanks are subject to AS/NZS1546.1:2008 (On-site domestic wastewater treatment units – septic tanks) as well as the current EPA Code of Practice and current EPA Certificate of Approval.

#### **4.2.2 Incinerating Toilets**

Incinerating toilets are rarely installed and are most suited to situations where a very small footprint and nil water use (and wastewater generation) are required. There are few models on the market, but all are similar in design and operation: wastewater is captured in a cone-shaped bowl or void, generally upon a fresh paper liner for each use system. With the push of a lever or button, the waste drops into the electric incineration chamber below which is sealed off from the bowl, but is vented to the outdoors (or to an approved ventilation system). A small amount (approximately 1 tablespoon) of ash is produced with each use and the ash collection trap must be cleaned approximately weekly (depending on frequency of use). The energy costs of this system are very high compared to other treatment systems.

#### **4.2.3 Wet composting systems (combined wastewater)**

Wet composting systems are also known as 'worm farms' and 'biological filters' and have increased in popularity over the past decade. Raw wastewater is discharged directly to the top of the filter (contained in a plastic tank similar to a septic tank) and a rich humus layer develops that separates the solids from liquid prior to composting the solids with the aid of soil micro- and macro- fauna, including earthworms. The liquid is discharged by gravity to absorption trenches and the composted solids are periodically removed by maintenance staff (every two years). The system is a passive, biologically-driven treatment process that mimics processes occurring in nature.

#### **4.2.4 Composting toilets (waterless or low-flush)**

The EPA list refers to only dry (waterless) composting toilets; however low-flush models are also available, although they are less common. Composting toilets are generally installed for water saving or lifestyle reasons (e.g. 'eco homes' or remote homes with limited water supply). They are very rarely retrofitted into existing homes, and require a separate greywater treatment system to treat all greywater streams (including kitchen greywater).

Any liquid in the system (including urine) forms a concentrated leachate which is disposed of by gravity drainage to a small absorption trench, which has long-term sustainability implications and is not suitable for areas with shallow soils, heavy-textured soils or high water tables. Alternatively, the leachate can be collected in a sealed container for disposal at a licenced wastewater treatment facility.

Waterless composting toilets are subject to AS/NZS1546.2:2008 ('On-site domestic wastewater treatment units – waterless composting toilets') as well as the current EPA Code of Practice and current EPA Certificate of Approval.

### **4.3 Combined Wastewater Secondary Domestic Treatment Systems**

According to the EPA, there are four broad categories of domestic secondary treatment systems:

1. Aerated wastewater treatment systems (AWTS)
2. Membrane Filters
3. Reedbeds
4. Sand and other Media Trickling Filters

The technologies used in domestic-scale systems are also often used in commercial systems (discussed in 4.3 below). The minimum standards for secondary effluent quality in Victoria (as per the current EPA Code of Practice) are as follows:

- Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD<sub>5</sub>): <20mg/L
- Total Suspended Solids (TSS): <30mg/L

- *E. coli* or thermotolerant coliforms (if disinfected): <10cfu/100mL

Nutrient removal performance varies considerably between secondary treatment systems and largely depends on design and operation (as well as influent nutrient concentrations).

#### 4.3.1 Aerated wastewater treatment systems (AWTS)

Domestic AWTS are pre-fabricated, mechanically aerated wastewater treatment systems designed to treat wastewater flows of <2,000L/day. They are tank-based systems, comprising either one or two discrete tanks that typically employ the following processes:

- settling of solids and flotation of scum in an anaerobic primary chamber or separate primary tank (effectively operating as a septic tank). This stage is omitted in some models.
- oxidation and consumption of organic matter through aerobic biological processes using (active or passive) mechanical aeration.
- clarification – secondary settling of solids.
- disinfection – usually by chlorination but occasionally using ultraviolet irradiation.
- regular removal of sludge to maintain the process.

AWTS are typically supplied as stand-alone, proprietary systems. They require regular maintenance in accordance with the EPA Certificate of Approval for the specific model (usually quarterly) to ensure satisfactory performance and adequate disinfection. The operating (power) costs of AWTS are relatively high compared to more passive systems such as trickling filters and reed beds, as the aerobic treatment phase requires air blowers to be run for several hours each day.

AWTS are generally **not** suitable for premises with intermittent use or surge loads, such as holiday homes and commercial premises with very low flow/high flow wastewater cycles. AWTS must not be switched off when not in use as the deprivation of oxygen will kill the aerobic bacteria within a few days and populations can take weeks to be re-established when the system is turned on and wastewater supply resumes. Some AWTS models have a low-flow switch which re-circulates effluent to keep aerobic bacteria alive when not in use.

AWTS are subject to AS/NZS1546.2:2008 ('On-site domestic wastewater treatment units – waterless composting toilets') as well as the current EPA Code of Practice and current EPA Certificate of Approval for the specific AWTS model.

#### 4.3.2 Membrane Filters

Membrane filters provide advanced secondary treated effluent using microfiltration or reverse osmosis membranes, usually following primary and secondary treatment in separate chambers or tanks. Use of membranes requires high energy use and therefore the ongoing costs as well as upfront costs of membranes systems which are high when compared to other systems. Furthermore, the systems require regular, ongoing maintenance to ensure membranes are not damaged or remain fouled.

#### 4.3.3 Reedbeds

The wastewater influent must first undergo primary treatment (e.g. a septic tank) prior to being treated in a reedbed. A reedbed is also known as subsurface-flow reedbed or constructed wetland and is designed to ensure that effluent flows beneath the gravel media surface, within the root zone of wetland plants, to ensure there is no standing water in the system. The system is lined with an impermeable membrane and constructed so that effluent flows horizontally through the media, via gravity. The wetland plants (macrophytes) and microbiological biofilms that develop on roots and gravel surfaces remove contaminants and pathogens from the effluent as it passes through. The treated effluent drains to a collection sump, from which it is pumped or discharged by gravity to the land application area (e.g. subsurface irrigation or absorption trench).

Reed beds are generally much more effective at nitrogen removal than phosphorus removal, with phosphorus removal expected to decline over time as the substrate becomes P-saturated. Although they are often touted as 'maintenance-free,' periodic replacement of the filter media assists in ongoing phosphorus removal.

Reedbeds are suitable for intermittent use and low-flow scenarios; however very high strength wastes (particularly BOD<sub>5</sub> and nutrients) can overwhelm the system and lead to poor treatment. For consistently high-strength influent wastewater (such as food or dairy processing premises), an additional primary treatment stage or secondary pre-treatment stage may be required, with the reedbed providing final effluent 'polishing'.

#### **4.3.4 Sand and other Media Trickling Filters**

For all sand and media filters, the influent must first undergo primary treatment (e.g. a septic tank). Sand and textile media filters are configured to provide a very large surface area to volume ratio, which hosts aerobic microorganisms that treat the effluent as it passes over the sand or media, usually by gravity. Proprietary filter systems typically incorporate the primary treatment tank into a stand-alone unit and recirculate a proportion of the treated effluent through the filter to improve effluent quality. The system is typically located below or at ground level. Sand filters can also be single-pass (i.e. non-recirculating) and therefore require a larger surface area to ensure adequate hydraulic residence time (HRT) of effluent.

Sand and textile media filters are generally more resilient to intermittent flows and shock loading than AWTs, and can have significantly lower operating costs. Recirculating systems (textile and some sand filters) have a relatively small footprint (and demand for materials) compared to single-pass sand filters; however, single pass filters can be designed with passive (gravity) dosing, requiring no electricity to operate. Site-specific hydraulic designs are required to support passive dosing systems.

For consistently high-strength influent wastewater (such as food or dairy processing premises), an additional primary treatment stage or secondary pre-treatment stage may be required, with the filter providing final effluent 'polishing'.

#### **4.3.5 Combined Wastewater Secondary Commercial Treatment Systems**

These systems are for predominantly human waste (minimal trade wastes) with flows 2,000-5,000L/day (in accordance with EPA 2015 regulations). The treatment technologies used are broadly similar to those used in domestic wastewater treatment systems, but are expanded in scale. Some systems are modular in design, using numerous small treatment units either in series or in parallel, allowing expansion of treatment capacities where required (including bringing standby units online for peak loads or permanent increases in influent loads). In many cases, companies will provide systems to both the domestic and the commercial market.

### **5. Land Application Systems for Treated Effluent**

The range of available land application systems is discussed below; and tables at the end of this Appendix provide a summary of onsite wastewater management treatment and land application systems available, and their suitability for use in various regions of the Shire (with consideration of system compatibility, and seasonal variance of flows from intermittently occupied holiday dwellings and seasonally-operating small businesses).

#### **5.1 Absorption Trenches and Beds**

Conventional absorption trenches and beds have conventionally been used for land application of septic tank effluent. Both options rely substantially on effluent absorption to the soil and impose relatively high loading rates on the soil (compared to irrigation). This increases the risk of systems being overloaded and failing hydraulically in the long term, with potential adverse health and environmental impacts. Furthermore, prolonged effluent application through absorption systems increases the risk of soil degradation by increasing salinity and sodicity, as well as the build-up of impermeable or slowly-permeable 'bio-mats' which can prevent movement of effluent into the soil, leading to 'creeping failure'. These ~~disposal~~dispersal systems

offer very limited opportunity for effective reuse of effluent and do not represent current best practice.

Over the years there have been various modifications to conventional absorption trenches and beds, some of which have been developed into proprietary 'off-the-shelf' products including various brands of self-supporting arch drains and the *Advanced Enviro-Septic™* modular trench.

Absorption trenches and beds are considered inappropriate for sites with shallow soils, high groundwater or heavy-textured (clay-based) soils, due to limited infiltration capacity. They are also generally not suitable for gravels and sands, as the very high permeability of these materials can inhibit beneficial treatment within the soil profile and allow effluent to rapidly percolate to the groundwater table. Areas with high rainfall are also at high risk of surface and groundwater contamination from conventional trenches and beds. Absorption trenches and beds can also be used with secondary-treated effluent, which can be dosed at a higher rate than primary-treated effluent (in accordance with Table 9 of the EPA Code of Practice (2013) and Table 5.2 of AS1547:2012).

### 5.2 Evapotranspiration-Absorption Trenches and Beds

Evapotranspiration-absorption (ETA) beds are essentially shallower absorption trenches or beds that allow some plant uptake of the effluent from the soil profile, reducing the amount of effluent that is leached to deeper soils and groundwater. They can improve environmental and public health outcomes for areas with heavy-textured or shallow soils, or high watertables, compared to absorption trenches and beds. However, they are prone to similar problems to conventional absorption trenches, including build-up of bio-mats and rapid percolation in highly-permeable soils. ETA systems are suitable for both primary and secondary treated effluent; however the DLRs nominated by both the current EPA Code of Practice and AS1547:2012 do not vary with the level of treatment (as is the case for absorption systems).

### 5.3 Modified ETA Trenches and Beds

In recent years, there have been several proprietary and custom-built modifications to standard ETA trenches and beds, which further optimise evapotranspiration of effluent and minimise deep drainage. The most common example is the custom-made geotextile-wrapped and/or lined arch or pipe trenches, which use capillary action in the geotextile to 'wick' effluent into the topsoil and root zone above (referred to in the current EPA Code of Practice as a 'wick trench or bed'). Wick trenches/beds are generally considered suitable for low-permeability soils. Like standard ETA systems, the modified versions are suitable for both primary and secondary treated effluent. The EPA Code of Practice nominates Design Loading Rates (DLRs) for wick trenches using secondary-treated effluent. For primary-treated effluent, however, the nominated DLRs for standard ETA systems in Table 5.2 of AS1547:2012 should be adopted. The long term performance of modified ETA systems has not been tested as they are a relative recent innovation. Use of primary-treated effluent could result in clogging of geotextile materials over time.

### 5.4 Mounds

Sand mounds, also known as Wisconsin mounds, are often an appropriate on-site solution for properties/parcels with limited space, shallow soil profiles, poor drainage or high water tables. Mounds are effectively raised soil absorption systems comprising layered fill, into which effluent is dosed. Effluent receives further treatment as it percolates down through the mound and is then absorbed by the natural soils below the mound. A properly designed mound can have a higher evapotranspiration potential than an ETA bed of equivalent size, further enhancing effluent ~~disposal~~ **dispersal** on constrained properties/parcels.

The basal footprint of a domestic mound is typically in the order of 7m wide by at least 20m long, and there are considerable up-front cost in the materials and construction of mounds. Mounds are suitable for primary or secondary treated effluent, and provide further treatment of effluent as it moves through the sand profile.

In addition, there are proprietary mound systems which use a modified fill media primarily from industrial waste products of aluminium or iron smelting, which have a very high phosphorus adsorption capacity. When designed, installed and maintained correctly, these systems can present a good solution for constrained sites. However, the success of these systems has been variable in the past, largely due to inappropriate design and installation. Table 9 of the EPA Code of Practice (2013) and Table 5.2 of AS1547:2012 provide DLRs for mounds.

### **5.5 Low Pressure Effluent Distribution (LPED) Irrigation**

LPED irrigation systems were originally developed for use in Category 1 and 2 soils (as per AS/NZS 1547:2012) where conventional absorption beds can result in overloading of soils at the proximal section of the trench while under-loading the remainder of the trench. Note that Table 9 of the EPA Code of Practice prohibits the use of LPED systems in Category 1 soils (gravels and sands) and Category 2a soils (weakly structured sandy loams). LPED systems can be beneficial for Category 5 soils; however, the large area they must occupy for such soils would be better served by subsurface irrigation (using secondary treated effluent) – see Section 5.7 below.

In LPED systems, effluent is discharged into 25-30mm perforated pipes contained within 50-100mm slotted pipes, to distribute effluent more evenly into the surrounding aggregate and to prevent soil intrusion into the perforations. The pipes are laid in narrow, shallow trenches (filled with aggregate and capped with topsoil), in order to optimise contact with aerobic bacteria in topsoil and to facilitate plant uptake of effluent. The system can be pressurised using a pump or a passive dosing device (i.e. a Flout™ or a siphon), with a detailed hydraulic design to ensure even distribution throughout the system. LPED irrigation can be used with either primary or secondary effluent, but is more commonly used as an alternative to trench and bed systems for primary effluent. It is recommended that an outlet filter is installed on primary treatment systems to reduce the amount of suspended solids and organics being conveyed into the LPED system. Table 9 of the EPA Code of Practice (2013) and Table 5.2 of AS1547:2012 provide DLRs for LPED systems (one rate for both primary and secondary effluent). Detailed design and installation advice is provided in Auckland Regional Council (2004) Technical Publication 58 (however the local DLRs must be used instead of those specified by ARC).

### **5.6 Surface Spray Irrigation**

Surface spray irrigation (using mist or droplet sprinklers) while increasing in popularity over the past 20 years, is now considered an outdated technology that can pose unacceptable public and environmental health risks due to potential exposure and also surface runoff during rainfall. Often, an inadequate number of sprinklers are installed to ensure even coverage over an adequately large area; and commonly the sprinklers are not fixed and must be frequently moved by the resident to reduce over-loading (which is often neglected over time). In addition, surface irrigation is not considered appropriate for slopes greater than 10%, as the risk of runoff increases. Surface spray irrigation is more suitable for relatively large and flat areas, with limited access to the irrigation field and large buffer distances to surface watercourses and drains. For typical domestic and small commercial sites, subsurface or covered-surface (i.e. under mulch) drip irrigation is considered best practice. Table 9 of the EPA Code of Practice (2013) and Table 5.2 of AS1547:2012 provide Design Irrigation Rates (DIRs) for surface irrigation systems.

### **5.7 Subsurface or Covered-surface Drip Irrigation**

Subsurface drip irrigation or covered-surface drip irrigation systems are becoming more popular in recent years. Properly designed systems apply effluent at much lower volumetric rates and over larger areas than absorption or ETA trenches/beds or mounds. Coverage is often better than can be achieved by surface irrigation.

Effluent is applied in the root zone of plants (100-150mm below the surface) at a rate that more closely matches plant and soil requirements (evapotranspiration), leading to more effective effluent reuse. The reliance on soil absorption is relatively low and hence the risk of contaminants accumulating in the soil or leaching to groundwater is also low.



Subsurface drip irrigation typically comprises a network of proprietary, pressure-compensating drip-irrigation line that is specially designed for use with effluent and contains specially designed emitters that reduce the risk of blockage, biofilm development and root intrusion. Subsurface irrigation virtually eliminates the risk of people inadvertently coming into contact with effluent and also minimises the risk of effluent being transported off-site, even during rain. Subsurface irrigation may be installed on sloping properties/parcels, provided the application rate is reduced accordingly to ensure that effluent migration down slope is taken up adequately within the root system (as per Table M2 of AS/NZS 1547:2012).

When properly designed, installed and operated, the system will ensure good distribution of effluent at uniform, controlled application rates. By properly sizing the land application areas to ensure sustainable hydraulic and nutrient loading rates, water and nutrients can be effectively utilised and are unlikely to seep to groundwater or run-off to surface waters. Care must be taken in designing and installing irrigation systems in areas that experience temperatures below freezing. Table 9 of the EPA Code of Practice (2013) and Table 5.2 of AS1547:2012 provide Design Irrigation Rates (DIRs) for subsurface irrigation systems.

## 6. System Selection

The following tables provide an overview of the range and application of EPA-accredited wastewater treatment system types, their compatibility with land application systems, and their suitability for use across unsewered areas of the Shire (based on soil characteristics only). Individual proprietary systems (i.e. brands) are not discussed.

The influence of climate patterns on land application system sizing is addressed in the Land Application System Sizing Tables which are included in the Locality Reports in Appendix B of the Technical Document. Note that the assessment of land application system suitability is based on the type and depth of soils identified in the locality, not the water balance for the locality. The Sizing Tables identify situations where the water balance does not resolve itself and minimum application areas cannot be determined using the water balance approach.

However, it may be possible to design and construct these systems in areas with high rainfall, following detailed LCA and system design, and potential mitigation measures such as the importation of topsoils to reduce effluent loading rates.

**Table 10: DWM System Compatibility Matrix**

Onsite Wastewater Management System	Absorption Trenches/Beds	Standard and Modified ETA Trenches/Beds	Mounds	LPED Irrigation	Surface or Subsurface Irrigation <sup>1</sup>	Toilet flushing and cold water supply to washing machines
<b>PRIMARY TREATMENT</b>						
Septic Tanks	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO
Wet Composting Systems/Biological Filters	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO
<b>SECONDARY TREATMENT</b>						
AWTS	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
Membrane Filters	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
Reed Beds	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
Sand or Media Tricking Filters	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
<b>ADVANCED SECONDARY TREATMENT</b>						
Greywater Treatment Systems	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

<sup>1</sup> ~~pressure-compensating, subsurface drip irrigation is preferred to surface spray or drip irrigation.~~

Onsite Wastewater Management System	Absorption Trenches/Beds	Standard and Modified ETA Trenches/Beds	Mounds	LPED Irrigation	Surface or Subsurface Irrigation <sup>1</sup>	Toilet flushing and cold water supply to washing machines
<b>PRIMARY TREATMENT</b>						
Septic Tanks	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO
Wet Composting Systems/Biological Filters	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO
<b>SECONDARY TREATMENT</b>						
Aerated Wastewater Treatment Systems	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
Membrane Filters	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
Reed Beds	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
Sand or Media Trickling Filters	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
<b>ADVANCED SECONDARY TREATMENT</b>						
Greywater Treatment Systems	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
<sup>1</sup> pressure-compensating, subsurface drip irrigation is preferred to surface spray or drip irrigation.						

**Table 11: Effluent Management Suitability by Locality**

Locality <sup>1</sup>	AS/NZS 1547:2012 Category of Limiting Soil Horizon	Indicative Topsoil Depth (cm) <sup>2</sup>	Absorption Trenches/Beds	Standard and Modified ETA Trenches/Beds	Mounds	Surface or Subsurface Irrigation <sup>3</sup>	LPED Irrigation
Alvie	4 and 5	0-60	NOT SUPPORTED	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE
Barham River Catchment (within Apollo Bay)	5 and 6	0-50	NOT SUPPORTED	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE
Barongarook	4 and 5	0-60	NOT SUPPORTED	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE
Barrahmungah	4	0-70	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE
Barwon Downs	5 and 6	0-60	NOT SUPPORTED	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE
Beeac	5 and 6	0-70	NOT SUPPORTED	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE
Beech Forest	4	0-50 (total profile depth)	NOT SUPPORTED	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE
Carlisle River	5 and 6	0-40	NOT SUPPORTED	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE
Coragulac	5	0-30	NOT SUPPORTED	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE
Cororooke	4	0-50	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE
Ferguson	4	0-60	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE
Forrest	4 and 5	0-20	NOT SUPPORTED	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE
Gellibrand	5	0-40	NOT SUPPORTED	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE
Kawarren	4 and 5	0-80	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE
Kennett River	4	0-90	NOT SUPPORTED	NOT SUPPORTED	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE
Lavers Hill	4 and 5	0-50	NOT SUPPORTED	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE
Weeaprounah	4 and 5	0-50 (total profile depth)	NOT SUPPORTED	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE
Wye River/ Separation Creek	1 (delta) - OR 4 (slopes)	various various	NOT SUPPORTED POSSIBLE	NOT SUPPORTED POSSIBLE	NOT SUPPORTED POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE POSSIBLE	NOT SUPPORTED POSSIBLE
Wyelangtah	4 and 5	0-70	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE

<sup>1</sup> Although system types are stated to be possible for a given location, a site specific design using a water balance may deem it as unsuitable for the given lot, particularly in the high rainfall areas of the Otway Ranges.

<sup>2</sup> Soil profile information taken from field assessments of representative site's in each locality by Robert van der Graaff in July 2014, and/or W&A in September 2014. Site assessments may identify different soils.

<sup>3</sup> Pressure-compensating, subsurface drip irrigation is preferred to surface spray or drip irrigation



Locality	AS/NZS 1547:2012 Category of Limiting Soil Horizon	Indicative Soil Depth (m) <sup>1</sup>	Absorption Trenches/Beds	Standard and Modified ETA Trenches/Beds	Mounds	Surface or Subsurface Irrigation <sup>2</sup>	LPED Irrigation
Alvie	4 and 5	1.5	NOT SUPPORTED	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE
Barham River Catchment (within Apollo Bay) <sup>3</sup>	5 and 6	1.2 (variable)	NOT SUPPORTED	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE
Barongarook <sup>3</sup>	4 and 5	2.0	NOT SUPPORTED	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE
Barramunga <sup>3,5</sup>	4		POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE
Barwon Downs <sup>3</sup>	5 and 6	2.0 (variable)	NOT SUPPORTED	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE
Beeac	5 and 6	2.0	NOT SUPPORTED	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE
Beech Forest <sup>3,4,5</sup>	4 and 5	<0.9	NOT SUPPORTED	POSSIBLE Secondary Wick Trench recommended	NOT SUPPORTED	NOT SUPPORTED	NOT SUPPORTED
Carlisle River <sup>3,5</sup>	5 and 6	>2.0	NOT SUPPORTED	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE
Coragulac	5	1.5	NOT SUPPORTED	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE
Cororooke	4	1.5	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE
Ferguson <sup>3,4,5</sup>	4 and 5	0.9	NOT SUPPORTED	POSSIBLE Secondary Wick Trench recommended	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE
Forrest <sup>35</sup>	4 and 5	2.0	NOT SUPPORTED	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE
Gellibrand <sup>3,5</sup>	5	0.9-2.0 (variable)	NOT SUPPORTED	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE
Kawarren <sup>3,5</sup>	4 and 5	2.0	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE
Kennett River	4	0.9	NOT SUPPORTED	NOT SUPPORTED	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE
Lavers Hill <sup>3,4,5</sup>	4 and 5	0.9	NOT SUPPORTED	Secondary Wick Trench only	NOT SUPPORTED	NOT SUPPORTED	NOT SUPPORTED
Weeaprounah <sup>3,4,5</sup>	4 and 5	0.9	NOT SUPPORTED	POSSIBLE Secondary Wick Trench recommended	NOT SUPPORTED	NOT SUPPORTED	NOT SUPPORTED
Wye River/ Separation Creek	1 (delta) - OR	0.9	NOT SUPPORTED	NOT SUPPORTED	NOT SUPPORTED	POSSIBLE	NOT SUPPORTED
	4 (slopes)		POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE
Wyangtiah <sup>3,4,5</sup>	4 and 5	0.9	NOT SUPPORTED	Secondary Wick Trench only	NOT SUPPORTED	NOT SUPPORTED	NOT SUPPORTED

<sup>1</sup> Soil profile information taken from Robinson *et al* (2003) study as used in Soil Suitability Sensitivity Analysis. This data was confirmed, where relevant, with field assessment of representative site's in each locality by Dr. Robert Van de Graaff in August 2014 and/or W&A in September 2014. Note that soil depth generally changes with slope. Only the most dominant soil landscape details are given for the town/settlement; hence, variability with soil type and depth may occur spatially throughout the locality. LCA investigations may identify differing soil conditions at individual locations.

<sup>2</sup> Pressure-compensating, subsurface drip irrigation is preferred to surface spray or drip irrigation

<sup>3</sup> All or Part of locality is within a DWSC.

<sup>4</sup> Towns/settlements in this locality are on the Otway Ridge (Climate Zone 4), system applicability improves as elevation reduces.

<sup>5</sup> The best-practice approach in DWSCs is (minimum) secondary treatment (min. 20/30 standard) with subsurface drip irrigation, or (for highly constrained properties/parcels) a Wick Trench/Bed system.

## Appendix B

### Sensitivity ~~Proforma~~Pro-forma Checklist

Parameter	Site specific input
PFI Identification Number	
Property/Parcel Address	
Locality	
Zoning	
Area (ha)	
Soil Texture	
Soil Depth (m)	
Soil Structure	
Soil Limitations	
Permeability (Ksat) (m/day)	
Slope (%)	
Presence of Surface Waters	
Useable Lot Area (ha)	



## **Appendix C**

### **Land Capability Assessment Checklists**

**Table C1: Minimum Requirement for a Standard LCA Assessment and Report**

Report Element	Standard Requirements	Completed
<b>1. Introduction and Background</b>	Report summary/ executive summary.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Confirmation of Sensitivity Rating.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Confirmation of any relevant sensitivity overlays (e.g. landslip) as per communications with Council.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Confirmation that property/parcel(s) meets minimum lot size criteria for COS Planning Scheme Zone.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Current land use and development overview (including occupancy); single property/parcel, increase in building entitlements (subdivision) or non-domestic development.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Name, contact details and qualifications (insurances) of LCA assessor (author).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Site location (including address and property/parcel details) and owner.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Property/parcel area.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Proposed/existing water supply.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Availability of sewer.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Locality map showing the site in relation to surrounding region.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>2. Site Inspection and Field Investigations</b>	Gather information on relevant Council, Water Corporation, Catchment Management Authority and State Government requirements, including restrictions and caveats on title, and planning/building/bushfire/flood controls, e.g. zones and overlays. Note Environmental Significant Overlays, potable water supply and DWSCs. Impose this information on a base map (or site plan) which shows their location with respect to title boundaries.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Broad overview of locality and landscape characteristics that may pose a constraint to the sustainable application of wastewater on the site and adjacent land, e.g. climatic information, groundwater and bore water information. (Refer to stage 3 pp.34 EPA Code of Practice (2013)).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Details of date, time and methodology of site inspection and field investigations.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Site assessment that considers all of the parameters as per Table 1 of the Victorian LCA Framework (2014). Detailed explanation of the level of constraint with regards to DWM and recommended mitigation measures to overcome these constraints.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Minimum of two soil test pits or auger holes within the identified available effluent management area(s), with additional test pits required for more than one soil type (multiple soil landscapes or facets) as per the current EPA Code of Practice.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Soil assessment that considers the following parameters from Table 2 of the Victorian LCA Framework (2014): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• colour and mottling;</li> <li>• electrical conductivity;</li> <li>• Emerson Aggregate Class;</li> <li>• permeability and design loading rate (using soil texture);</li> <li>• pH;</li> <li>• rock fragments;</li> <li>• soil depth;</li> <li>• soil texture (field textural analysis); and</li> <li>• depth to watertable (if required).</li> </ul> Detailed explanation of the level of constraint with regards to DWM and recommended mitigation measures to overcome these constraints.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Report Element	Standard Requirements	Completed
<b>3. Available Area and Setback Distances</b>	Calculation of available effluent management area and location on the Site Plan.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Discussion regarding the achievability of the applicable setback distances (Table 5 of the EPA Code of Practice (2013)). Justification required.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>4. LCA Confirmation</b>	Confirm the results from Stages 1-3 of the LCA checklist with Council to assess the final Sensitivity Rating for the site to confirm LCA requirements for system selection and design. Provide a Site Plan showing the available effluent management area(s) and completed Sensitivity <del>Proforma</del> Pro-forma Checklist.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>5. Cumulative Impacts</b>	Using the desktop and site assessment information for the site, comment on any possible cumulative detrimental impacts that the development may have on beneficial uses of the surrounding land, surface water and groundwater.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>6. System Selection and Design*</b>	Design maximum wastewater load (generation rates) and organic load for the proposed development.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Description of existing system (if applicable).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Target effluent treatment quality.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Description and location of applicable DWM treatment system options (refer to relevant Locality Report and EPA website for list of currently approved systems).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	List of effluent land application options and detailed description of preferred option and location (as per relevant Locality Report). Sizing of land application area as per the system Sizing Tables detailed in the Technical Document.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>7. Mitigation Measures</b>	Detailed discussion of mitigation measures to overcome any site or soil constraints posed to the sustainable treatment and application of wastewater on-site. This may include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Storm water management</li> <li>• Soil amelioration; and</li> <li>• Vegetation establishment and management.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>8. Site Management Plan</b>	Description of ways to improve wastewater and DWM system performance for residents' reference.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Operation and Management Plan.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>9. Conclusion</b>	Conclusion summarising all the important design, sizing and mitigation requirements to ensure sustainable on-site DWM.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>10. Site Plan Requirements</b>	Site address, including property/parcel number and street number.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	All title boundaries.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	All relevant zones and overlays and/or restrictions (e.g. Council zoning and overlays, including Environmental Significant Overlays and DWSCs).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Type of catchment (e.g. potable or other special water supply catchment).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	North arrow.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Location of groundwater bores.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Contour lines (at maximum 1 in 10m intervals), direction of slope and grade.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Location of soil test pits or auger holes.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Location of any significant site features e.g. rock outcrops or waterlogged regions.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Location of intermittent and permanent surface waterways (dams, creeks, reservoirs and springs).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Location of 1% and 5% Annual Exceedance Probability flood level	<input type="checkbox"/>

Report Element	Standard Requirements	Completed
	contours lines (if applicable).	
	Location, depth and specified use of groundwater bores on the site and adjacent properties from the register of the relevant Rural Water Corporation.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Depth to groundwater table in winter (if less than 2.1m deep).	
	Vegetation cover (can use aerial image as base map).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Relevant setback distances as per Table 5 EPA Code of Practice (2013).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Location of existing and proposed buildings, sheds, driveways, paths and any other improvements.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Available effluent management area(s).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Location of proposed land application area (sized to scale).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Location of proposed stormwater cut-off drains adjacent to the land application area.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Location of proposed DWM system (nominal).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Location of reserve land application area (sized to scale).	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>11. Appendices</b>	Figures	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Site Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Soil bore logs for all test pits or auger holes	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Certificate of Title(s) for property/parcel (plan)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Proposed building plans	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Planning Permit application (where applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Septic Tank Permit application	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>* If site is located within Climate Zone 4, then site specific design is required and the Sizing Tables cannot be used. This is due to the higher rainfall and the need to utilise a water balance for design purposes. The LCA is to remain the same, except Stage 6 is to follow the requirements set out in the Detailed LCA <del>Proforma</del><u>Proforma</u>.</p> <p>** Properties/parcels with a Low Sensitivity Rating that are located within a DWSC are required to complete this Standard LCA as per the current EPA Code of Practice requirements.</p>		

**Table C2: Minimum Requirements for a Detailed LCA Assessment and Report**

<b>Report Element</b>	<b>Detailed Requirements</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<b>1. Introduction and Background</b>	Report summary/ executive summary.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Confirmation of Sensitivity Rating.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Confirmation of any relevant sensitivity overlays (e.g. landslip) as per communications with Council.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Confirmation that property/parcel(s) meets minimum lot size criteria for COS Planning Scheme Zone.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Current land use and development overview (including occupancy); single property/parcel, increase in building entitlements (subdivision) or non-domestic development.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Name, contact details and qualifications (insurances) of LCA assessor (author).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Site location (including address and property/parcel details) and owner.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Property/parcel area.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Proposed/existing water supply.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Availability of sewer.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Locality map showing the site in relation to surrounding region.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Site survey plan (2m contours) will need to be conducted by a qualified surveyor.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>2. Site Inspection and Field Investigations</b>	Gather information on relevant Council, Water Corporation, Catchment Management Authority and State Government requirements, including restrictions and caveats on title, and planning/building/bushfire/flood controls, e.g. zones and overlays. Note Environmental Significant Overlays, potable water supply and DWSCs. Impose this information on a base map (or site plan) which shows their location with respect to title boundaries.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Broad overview of locality and landscape characteristics that may pose a constraint to the sustainable application of wastewater on the Site and adjacent land, e.g. climatic information, groundwater and bore water information. (Refer to stage 3 pp.34 EPA Code of Practice (2013)).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Details of date, time and methodology of site inspection and field investigations.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Site assessment that considers all of the parameters as per Table 1 of the Victorian LCA Framework (2014). Detailed explanation of the level of constraint with regards to DWM and recommended mitigation measures to overcome these constraints.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Minimum of two soil test pits or auger holes within the identified available effluent management area with additional test pits required for more than one soil type (multiple soil landscapes or facets) as per the current EPA Code of Practice.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Soil assessment that considers all of the parameters in Table 2 of the Victorian LCA Framework (2014): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• colour and mottling;</li> <li>• electrical conductivity;</li> <li>• Emerson Aggregate Class;</li> <li>• permeability and design loading rate (using soil texture);</li> <li>• pH;</li> <li>• rock fragments;</li> <li>• soil depth;</li> <li>• soil texture (field textural analysis);</li> <li>• watertable (depth to);</li> <li>• cation exchange capacity (CEC);</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Report Element	Detailed Requirements	Completed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sodicity (Exchangeable Sodium Percentage ESP); and</li> <li>Sodium Absorption Ratio (SAR).</li> </ul> <p>Detailed explanation of the level of constraint with regards to DWM and recommended mitigation measures to overcome these constraints.</p> <p>Soil permeability testing conducted in situ for the soil within the available effluent management area as per constant head well permeameter method (AS/NZS 1547:2012) can be undertaken if desired, otherwise soil texture classification and application of effluent using the loading rates within the AS/NZS 1547:2012 is satisfactory.</p>	
	Detailed review of available published soils information for the site. Soil landscapes and different soil facets should be mapped on the Site Plan.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>3. Available Area and Setback Distances</b>	Calculation of available effluent management area and location on Site Plan.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Discussion regarding the achievability of the applicable setback distances (Table 5 of the EPA Code of Practice (2013)). Justification required.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>4. LCA Confirmation</b>	Confirm the results from Stages 1-3 of the LCA checklist with Council to assess the final Sensitivity Rating for the site to confirm LCA requirements for system selection and design. Provide a Site Plan showing the available effluent management area(s) and completed Sensitivity <del>Proforma</del> Pro-forma Checklist.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>5. Cumulative Impacts</b>	Using the desktop and site assessment information for the site, comment on any possible cumulative detrimental impacts that the development may have on beneficial uses of the surrounding land, surface water and groundwater.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>6. System Selection and Design</b>	Design maximum wastewater load (generation rates) and organic load for the proposed development.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Description of existing system (if applicable).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Target effluent treatment quality.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Assess the capacity of the land to assimilate the treated wastewater based on the data collected and the total dissolved salts (TDS) in the potable water supply (see Section 2.3.4 and Appendix G of EPA Code of Practice (2013)) for both levels of effluent quality, primary and secondary.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Description and location of applicable DWM treatment system options (refer to the EPA website for list of currently approved systems).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	List of effluent land application options and detailed description of preferred option and location.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Monthly water balance sizing the preferred effluent land application area. <del>The 70<sup>th</sup></del> 70 <sup>th</sup> percentile climate data must be used for your location within the relevant Climate Zone, as detailed in Section 6.2.2 of Technical Document. A copy of the 70 <sup>th</sup> percentile climate data is attached in Appendix C of the Technical Document. All inputs, results and justification to be shown in the report.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>7. Mitigation Measures</b>	<p>Detailed discussion of mitigation measures to overcome any site or soil constraints posed to the sustainable treatment and application of wastewater on-site. This may include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Storm water management</li> <li>Soil amelioration; and</li> <li>Vegetation establishment and management.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>8. Site</b>	Description of ways to improve wastewater and DWM system performance for residents' reference.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Report Element	Detailed Requirements	Completed
Management Plan	Operation and Management Plan.	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Conclusion	Conclusion summarising all the important design, sizing and mitigation requirements to ensure sustainable on-site DWM.	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Site Plan Requirements	Site address, including property/parcel number and street number.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	All title boundaries.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	All relevant zones and overlays and/or restrictions (e.g. Council zoning and overlays, including Environmental Significant Overlays and DWSCs).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Type of catchment (i.e. potable or other special water supply catchment).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	North arrow.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Location of groundwater bores.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Contour lines ( <u>at maximum of 2m intervals</u> <del>from survey plan</del> ), direction of slope and grade.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Location of soil test pits or auger holes.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Location of any significant site features e.g. rock outcrops or waterlogged regions.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Location of intermittent and permanent surface waterways (dams, creeks, reservoirs and springs).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Location of 1% and 5% Annual Exceedance Probability flood level contours lines (if applicable).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Location, depth and specified use of groundwater bores on the site and adjacent properties from the register of the relevant Rural Water Corporation.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Depth to groundwater table in winter (if less than 2.1m deep).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Vegetation cover (can use aerial image as base map).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Relevant setback distances as per Table 5 EPA Code of Practice (2013).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Location of existing and proposed buildings, sheds, driveways, paths and any other improvements.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Available effluent management area(s).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Location of proposed land application area (sized to scale).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Location of proposed stormwater cut-off drains adjacent to the land application area.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Location of proposed DWM system (nominal).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Location of reserve land application area (sized to scale).	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Appendices	Copy of the monthly water balance calculations.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Figures.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Site Plan.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Soil bore logs for all test pits or auger holes.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Certificate of Title (s) for property/parcel (plan).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Proposed building plans.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Planning Permit application (where applicable).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Septic Tank Permit application.	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Table C3: Minimum Requirements for a Comprehensive LCA Assessment and Report**

Report Element	Comprehensive Requirements	Completed
<b>1. Introduction and Background</b>	Report summary/ executive summary.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Confirmation of Sensitivity Rating.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Confirmation of any relevant sensitivity overlays (e.g. landslip) as per communications with Council.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Confirmation that property/parcel(s) meets minimum lot size criteria for COS Planning Scheme Zone.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Current land use and development overview (including occupancy); single property/parcel, increase in building entitlements (subdivision) or non-domestic development.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Name, contact details and qualifications (insurances) of LCA assessor (author).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Site location (including address and property/parcel details) and owner.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Property/parcel area.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Proposed/existing water supply.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Availability of sewer.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Locality map showing the site in relation to surrounding region.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Site survey plan (2m contours) will need to be conducted by a qualified surveyor.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>2. Site Inspection and Field Investigations</b>	Gather information on relevant Council, Water Corporation, Catchment Management Authority and State Government requirements, including restrictions and caveats on title, and planning/building/bushfire/flood controls, e.g. zones and overlays. Note Environmental Significant Overlays, potable water supply and DWSCs. Impose this information on a base map (or site plan) which shows their location with respect to title boundaries.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Broad overview of locality and landscape characteristics that may pose a constraint to the sustainable application of wastewater on the Site and adjacent land, e.g. climatic information, groundwater and bore water information. (Refer to stage 3 pp.34 EPA Code of Practice (2013)).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Details of date, time and methodology of site inspection and field investigations.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Site assessment that considers all of the parameters as per Table 1 of the Victorian LCA Framework (2014). Detailed explanation of the level of constraint with regards to DWM and recommended mitigation measures to overcome these constraints.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Minimum of two soil test pits or auger holes within the identified available effluent management area with additional test pits required for more than one soil type (multiple soil landscapes or facets) as per the current EPA Code of Practice.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Soil assessment that considers all of the parameters in Table 2 of the Victorian LCA Framework (2014): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• colour and mottling;</li> <li>• electrical conductivity;</li> <li>• Emerson Aggregate Class;</li> <li>• permeability and design loading rate (using soil texture);</li> <li>• pH;</li> <li>• rock fragments;</li> <li>• soil depth;</li> <li>• soil texture (field textural analysis);</li> <li>• watertable (depth to);</li> <li>• cation exchange capacity (CEC); and</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Report Element	Comprehensive Requirements	Completed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sodicity (Exchangeable Sodium Percentage ESP).</li> </ul> <p>Phosphorous Sorption Capacity is also required to be measured for the soil to which the effluent will be applied to.</p> <p>Detailed explanation of the level of constraint with regards to DWM and recommended mitigation measures to overcome these constraints.</p> <p>Soil permeability testing conducted in situ for the soil within the available effluent management area as per constant head well permeameter method (AS/NZS 1547:2012) must be undertaken to determine the sustainable daily effluent loading rates.</p>	
	Detailed review of available published soils information for the site. Soil landscapes and different soil facets should be mapped on the Site Plan.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>3. Available Area and Setback Distances</b>	Calculation of available effluent management area and location on Site Plan.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Discussion regarding the achievability of the applicable setback distances (Table 5 of the EPA Code of Practice (2013)). Justification required.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>4. LCA Confirmation</b>	Confirm the results from Stages 1-3 of the LCA checklist with Council to assess the final Sensitivity Rating for the site to confirm LCA requirements for system selection and design. Provide a Site Plan showing the available effluent management area(s) and completed Sensitivity <del>Proforma</del> Pro-forma Checklist.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>5. Cumulative Impacts</b>	Using the desktop and site assessment information for the site, comment on any possible cumulative detrimental impacts that the development may have on beneficial uses of the surrounding land, surface water and groundwater.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Viral Die-off Modelling to address pathogen transport concerns from the proposed land application area (e.g. Cromer <i>et al.</i> 2001).	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>6. System Selection and Design</b>	Design maximum wastewater load (generation rates) and organic load for the proposed development.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Description of existing system (if applicable).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Target effluent treatment quality.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Assess the capacity of the land to assimilate the treated wastewater based on the data collected and the total dissolved salts (TDS) in the potable water supply (see Section 2.3.4 and Appendix G of EPA Code of Practice (2013)) for both levels of effluent quality; primary and secondary.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Description and location of applicable DWM treatment system options (refer to EPA website for list of currently approved systems).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	List of effluent land application options and detailed description of preferred option and location. Land application area to be sized on the most limiting balance as detailed below.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<p>A water balance is required to size the preferred effluent land application area for the proposed development scenario.</p> <p>A monthly water balance using the prescribed 70<sup>th</sup> percentile climate data must be used for your location within the relevant Climate Zone, as detailed in Section 6.2.2 of the Technical Document <del>or</del>. <del>Alternately</del>, a daily water balance <del>model</del> (i.e. MEDLI) using <del>average climate</del> <del>a minimum 30-year</del> data <del>must</del> <del>period may</del> be undertaken. A copy of the 70<sup>th</sup> percentile climate data is attached in Appendix C of the Technical Document.</p> <p>All inputs, results and justification to be shown in the report.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Undertake an annual nutrient balance (refer to pp.33 MAV (2014) for example methodology) for the proposed development scenario. All inputs, results and justification to be shown in the report.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Report Element	Comprehensive Requirements	Completed
	Prepare a site specific detailed hydraulic design for the land application area suitable for supplier quotation and construction.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>7. Mitigation Measures</b>	<p>Detailed discussion of mitigation measures to overcome any site or soil constraints posed to the sustainable treatment and application of wastewater on-site. This may include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Storm water management</li> <li>• Soil amelioration; and</li> <li>• Vegetation establishment and management.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>8. Site Management Plan</b>	Description of ways to improve wastewater and DWM system performance for residents' reference.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Operation and Management Plan.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>9. Conclusion</b>	Conclusion summarising all the important design, sizing and mitigation requirements to ensure sustainable on-site DWM.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>10. Site Plan Requirements</b>	Site address, including property/parcel number and street number.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	All title boundaries.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	All relevant zones and overlays and/or restrictions (e.g. Council zoning and overlays, including Environmental Significant Overlays and DWSCs).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Type of catchment (e.g. potable or other special water supply catchment).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	North arrow.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Location of groundwater bores.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Contour lines (2m intervals from survey plan <u>or Council provided data</u> ), direction of slope and grade.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Location of soil test pits or auger holes.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Location of any significant site features e.g. rock outcrops or waterlogged regions.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Location of intermittent and permanent surface waterways (dams, creeks, reservoirs and springs).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Location of 1% and 5% Annual Exceedance Probability flood level contours lines (if applicable).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Location, depth and specified use of groundwater bores on the site and adjacent properties from the register of the relevant Rural Water Corporation.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Depth to groundwater table in winter (if less than 2.1m deep).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Vegetation cover (can use aerial image as base map).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Relevant setback distances as per Table 5 EPA Code of Practice (2013).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Location of existing and proposed buildings, sheds, driveways, paths and any other improvements.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Available effluent management area(s).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Location of proposed land application area (sized to scale).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Location of proposed stormwater cut-off drains adjacent to the land application area.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>11. Appendices</b>	Location of proposed DWM system (nominal).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Location of reserve land application area (sized to scale).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Copy of the water (hydraulic) balance calculations.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Copy of the nutrient balance calculations.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Figures.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Site Plan.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Report Element	Comprehensive Requirements	Completed
	Soil bore logs for all test pits or auger holes.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Copy of the Survey Plan.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Certificate of Title(s) for property/parcel (plan).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Proposed building plans.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Planning Permit application (where applicable).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Septic Tank Permit application.	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Appendix D

### Example System Inspection ~~Proforma~~

**Pro-forma**

Date & Time of Inspection					GPS Coordinates of LAA		
Property Address:				South	East	Aspect:	
Property Owners/Contact:							
Inspected By				Yes	No		
Inspection Protocol							
Risk Rating		Low (1)	Medium (2)	High (3)	Upgrades Required / Comments		
Treatment System				N/A			
Grease Trap							
Is Grease trap adequately sized, maintained and functioning?		Yes	No				
Greywater							
Is greywater directed to street/drain?		No		Yes			
If fitted, is greywater diversion device operating correctly?		Yes	No	No			
Septic Tank							
Is the tank(s) accessible for inspection and maintenance?		Yes	No				
Do the tank(s) and lid(s) appear structurally sound?		Yes		No			
Is the tank(s) adequately sealed?		Yes		No			
Is the tank area subject to stormwater or groundwater inundation?		No		Yes			
Do any tank(s) require urgent repair or replacement?		No		Yes			
Tank dimensions:							
Type	Plastic	Concrete	Other:				
Volume (L)							
Ballie?	Yes	No	Damaged	Damaged	Damaged		
Outlet height (mm)							
Liquid height (mm)							
Scum Depth (mm)							
Sludge Depth (mm)							
Operation:	Are Both T pieces (junctions) attached and working?			Yes	No		
	Does the tank require desludging?			No	Yes		
Pump/ pump wells/controls	Is septic tank providing adequate anaerobic treatment?			Yes	No	No	
Is the pumpwell(s) of adequate capacity (e.g. emergency storage)?		Yes	No				
Is the system fitted with a high level alarm?		Yes		No			
Are there any electrical hazards / issues with the system?		No		Yes			
Is there a suitable control system for the pump?		Yes	No				
Is the pump operational and in a satisfactory condition?		Yes	No	No			
Is pump well in satisfactory condition? (Yes - Low, No - Medium or High)		Yes	No	No			
AWTS							
Is the AWTS operating satisfactorily? (Yes - Low, No - Medium or High)		Yes	No	No			
Are the blowers working?		Yes	No				
Is there sludge or scum accumulation in aeration chamber, clarification chamber or irrigation chamber?		No	Yes				
Is the chlorine dispenser filled and functioning?		Yes	No	No			
Residual Chlorine (mg/L)							
Is system regularly serviced by a contractor?		Yes	No	No			

Land Application Area						
Absorption Trenches/Beds						
Dimensions (m)	Slope (%) approx.	<8%	8-12%	>12%		
Is the land application area of adequate size?		Yes	No	No		
Is there a suitable vegetation cover over the land application area?		Yes	No	No		
Is there adequate exposure of the land application area? (i.e. not too shaded, or southerly aspect?)		Yes	No			
Is the land application area wet or boggy?		No	Yes	Yes		
Is there evidence of surface ponding or runoff from the land application area?		No	Yes	Yes		
Is the area prone to poor drainage, flooding or high groundwater?		No	Yes	Yes		
Are there any damaged or collapsed sections of the land application area?		No	Yes	Yes		
Is there evidence of or access for vehicle and animal traffic?		No	Yes			
Does the land application area appear to be level and in line with contours?		Yes	No	No		
Are buffer distances to trenches/beds adequate?		Yes	No	No		
Surface/Subsurface Irrigation						
Dimensions (m <sup>2</sup> )	Slope (%) approx.					
Is the land application area wet or boggy?		No	Yes	Yes		
Is there evidence of surface ponding or runoff from the land application area?		No	Yes	Yes		
Are buffer distances to irrigation area adequate?		Yes	No	No		
Are all sprinklers working?		Yes	No	No		
Overall Assessment						
Were you able to locate and access the whole system?		Yes	No	No		
Was the system discharging effluent to the ground surface in an unsatisfactory manner?		Yes	No	No		
General Condition of system	Good (Low) Satisfactory (Medium) Unsatisfactory (High)	Good	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory		
Proximity to Sensitive environments (streams, rivers)		>100m	50-100m	<50m		
Located within a drinking water catchment? Y/N Distance to reservoir/stream:						
Overall Highest Risk Rating						
Are works required on the system?		Minor	Moderate	Major	Nil	
Details of Required Works:						