

Submission

No 6

INQUIRY INTO MANAGEMENT OF DOMESTIC WASTEWATER

Organisation: Strathfield Council
Name: Mr Patrick Wong
Position: Director Technical Services
Date Received: 12/12/2011

5 December 2011

Damian Zammit

Clerk-Assistant, Committees
Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam

**SUBMISSION – COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND REGULATION INQUIRY INTO
THE MANAGEMENT OF DOMESTIC WASTEWATER**

I refer to your letter of 1 November 2011, inviting Council to make a submission to the above inquiry, and comment as follows:

Although all properties in the Strathfield Local Government Area are connected to the Sydney Water Sewer system, it is likely some properties may reuse grey-water on their land. It is my understanding that a grey-water system would technically require approval under Section 68 of the Local Government Act 1993 (for an on-site sewage management system). Strathfield Council does not have any approvals for these systems on file, and these systems are largely 'hidden' from Council regulation.

Considering how commonly available greywater devices are, it is suggested that:

- A streamlined approval system for greywater systems be implemented under the *Local Government Act 1993*, and that greywater systems are separated from other on-site sewage management systems in the Act and Regulations.
- There needs to be a minimum level of performance for greywater devices that manufacturers must comply with (an Australian Standard perhaps).
- Water quality standards (e.g. for bacteria, fecal coliforms etc.) be introduced for greywater re-use on landscaping and on edible gardens. These should be enforceable by legislation (perhaps in a Regulation) so that where health risks are identified, Council officers have the means to require improvement.

Should you have any queries regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Council's Environment & Compliance Coordinator, Mr Damian Zammit, on 9748 99650.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Wong', with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the signature.

PATRICK WONG
DIRECTOR TECHNICAL SERVICES