

Submission

No 1

INQUIRY INTO MANAGEMENT OF DOMESTIC WASTEWATER

Organisation: Gilgandra Shire Council

Name: Mr Paul Mann

Position: General Manager

Date Received: 4/11/2011



GilgandraShireCouncil
meeting community needs

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Contact: David Neeves

4 November 2011

Mr C Patterson MP
Chair
Committee on Environment and Regulation
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir

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

Gilgandra Shire Council would like to make a submission to the above inquiry.

Gilgandra Shire Council has over 1000 onsite sewerage management systems throughout the shire and do not have the funding or the resources to complete regular inspections. Currently Council inspects new systems and responds to complaints only. To fully regulate the management of existing septic tanks, Council would need to appoint one full time professional staff member dedicated to this role.

To implement such inspection program, the State Government should fund Councils, inclusive of oncosts, vehicle expenses, etc in the vicinity of \$120,000 per full time officer.

To assist Councils and the general public in assessing the requirements for onsite sewerage management systems, the process should be simplified. A suggestion could be to allow a self assessment against a set criteria by Council officers and the applicants. For example, a property of a minimum size (say 40 hectares) on a particular soil type needs an absorption trench of x metres per occupant. This would avoid the need of the applicants to engage costly geotechnical consultants to determine the soil types, and appropriate systems.

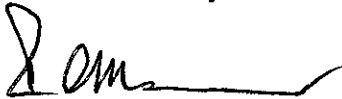
Generally in the western area soil types consist of M and H and there is no reason why a simple matrix could not be developed to avoid the unnecessary cost to the public and to assist Councils to simplify the process.

2.

The current systems cannot guarantee the safe, effective operations of all OSMS within our Shire. Although, in saying this, historical evidence suggests this may not be a major problem for our Shire.

Should you wish to discuss this submission further, please contact David Neeves, Manager Environmental Services.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P A Mann', followed by a long horizontal line.

P A Mann
General Manager