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**From:** Ruth Neave  
**Sent:** Monday, 5 May 2025 4:25 PM  
**To:** Portfolio Committee8  
**Subject:** CM: RE: Public toilets – Post-hearing responses – 7 April 2025 - Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Dear Alice,

Please find a response to the question on notice.

**Are septic systems similar enough to each other that there could be a pattern book option for a septic system, or does it need to be more localised than that?**

To establish good practice in septic system management, the following factors need to be considered;

- The routine load on the system.
- The topography of the site.
- The characteristics of the soil.
- The proximity to water sources.
- Users familiarity with what can safely be disposed of in a septic system.
- How waste products will be managed.
- Variable factors such as climate and weather events.

A Pattern Book for septic systems would need to advise on the management of these factors in the design, construction, operational, maintenance and decommissioning stages.

A Pattern Book for septic systems that provided adaptable, inclusive, sustainable, and affordable options that lent themselves to customisation to site specific conditions would be preferred to an overly prescriptive regulatory approach.

The value of the Pattern Book would be increased if it is developed in partnership with rural and remote facility managers. These partnerships could be used to investigate innovative solutions to septic system management and enhance the individual, social, and environmental benefits of public toilets utilising septic systems.

Regards,

Ruth

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