



Community Wastewater Management Systems (CWMS) DESLUDGING PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

Each property has its own septic tank which breaks down wastes and allows effluent water to discharge out of the other end of the tank into a network of pipes and pumps for disposal into the CWMS lagoons.

It is common practice now for Councils throughout the State to provide a service where individual septic tanks are desludged on a regular, *compulsory* basis. It is a condition of Council's licence from the Environment Protection Agency running the Scheme that we implement a program to have the accumulated sludge and solids removed from septic tanks within the township of Robe once every 4 years so that they can work effectively.

Council has engaged Envirogen Industrial Services (Aust) Pty Ltd to undertake the CWMS Desludging Program.

Desludging

The actual desludging scheme will involve Council Contractor visiting every property once every four (4) years to pump out your septic tank. The cost of this work will be built into your "Occupied with desludging" rate structure and you will not have to pay the contractor or be charged any upfront fee for this service. Additional costs will apply if the tank is more than 5000 litres.

Exposing the Septic Tank

You will be asked to locate and expose your tank. If you cannot locate the tank, please contact the Council office on 87682003, as Council may have plans available to help you.

The Contractor will carry out all works such as lifting and replacing the lids to the tanks and riser shafts, however, it is the owner's responsibility to expose the lids and riser shafts of the tank (not just the small inspection cap). Any digging that needs to be done by the Contractor will incur a fee, payable by the owner.

If the lid is not in good condition, the owner will need to be present, as there have been previous occasions where lids have broken at no fault of the Contractor. Please remove any pot plants and other ornaments that may be present, from the lid of the tank in preparation for the contractors visit.

If you are unable to carry out this work or arrange to have it done prior to the contract date, the contractor will expose your tank, and back fill, and you will be charged an additional fee of \$100.00 per hour. You will be contacted if machinery and additional works are required.

If your tank is under brick pavers, under a driveway or buried under other improvements, you will need to arrange to have the tank exposed at your cost and the contractor will return when you have exposed the tank.

If your tank is deeper than 450mm (18 inches) you are required to install a riser or a shaft and make any alterations to bring to ground level.

Prior to backfilling it is strongly recommended that you install a saddle riser over the tank and up to ground level. This is required under the Standard for Waste Control Systems.

Precast concrete saddle risers are available or alternatively risers can be constructed of stone or concrete masonry. Contact Envirogen for further information on 0457 837 891.

Landscaping and Improvements over your septic system

Do you know where your septic system is? If you are thinking of constructing a shed, deck, pergola, adding fill, pave or construct a driveway you will need to find out where your septic is and include this in your plan as adequate access to the lid of the tank (not the Inspection Point) is critical for maintenance and pumping. Construction on or near your septic system could damage the tank, pipes or soil. Please contact the Council who may assist with providing you with a plan of the location of the septic system.

Vehicles and equipment

Limit traffic over the system to reduce soil compaction.

Gardens

Landscape plastic, bark or mulch should not be used over your septic system as these materials reduce air exchange while bark and mulch also retain excess moisture. Any landscaping will also need to be removed by the owner prior to the tank being desludged.

Maintenance of Septic Tank

While the desludging work is being undertaken the contractor will ensure that the Septic Tank is in good order. Any defects will be reported to you and you may wish to negotiate to have the contractor attend to the faults whilst he is there at your own cost. The contractor is obliged to report any defects to the Council, so you may receive a follow-up letter requiring you to fix the faults using the plumber of your choice.

Notification of Desludging Program

Council will notify you in advance of when you will be required to expose the lid. Any pumping out of the tank outside of the 4 year cycle will be at the owners expense.