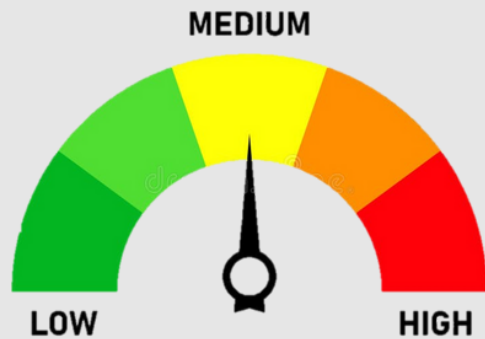


INSPECTION FREQUENCY

All on-site sewage management systems are required to be registered with Council. Each system will be assessed and once passed will be categorised into low, medium or high risk.



LOW RISK
Inspection required every **8** years.

MEDIUM RISK
Inspection required every **5** years.

HIGH RISK
Inspection required every **2** years.

COMMERICAL SYSTEMS MAY BE INSPECTED ANNUALLY

Inspection categories are allocated based on the type of system, the age of the system and any environmental and health risks associated with the site. Upon a satisfactory inspection council will issue an approval to operate to the owner for the system. This approval will detail the renewal date and conditions for safe operation and maintenance of your system.

DO YOUR PART, BE SEPTIC SMART

KEEP IT PROTECTED, GET IT INSPECTED

Ensure that your Approval to Operate a sewage management system inspection is not overdue. Have your on-site sewage management system inspected by Council

DON'T STRAIN YOUR DRAIN

Use water efficiently to avoid overloading your system. Fix household leaks, run the dishwasher and clothes washer only on full loads, and consider installing high-efficiency fixtures.

THINK AT THE SINK

Don't pour grease, fats or harmful chemicals like paints and solvents down your sink. They can clog or harm your system.

NOTHING FUNNY DOWN THE DUNNY

Never allow any foreign materials such as nappies, sanitary napkins, personal items and other hygiene products to enter your system.

SHIELD YOUR FIELD

Care for your disposal area by only planting grass, not driving on or parking on it, keeping stock and other animals off it, and reducing roof and surface water drainage near the disposal area.

BATHURST 
REGIONAL COUNCIL

DO YOUR PART

BE SEPTIC SMART

A guide to Bathurst Regional Councils Approval to Operate program

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO HAVE MY ON-SITE SEWAGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM INSPECTED BY COUNCIL?

A State Government survey of on-site sewage management (OSSM) systems in NSW showed that up to 70% of systems were experiencing some type of failure.

As a result the NSW State Government developed legislation which stipulates that every OSSM system in NSW should be inspected to ensure it is not having an adverse impact on the health of people or the surrounding environment.

Bathurst Regional Council estimates that there are over 3,000 on-site sewage management systems within the Bathurst Regional Council Local Government Area.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE 'APPROVAL TO OPERATE' FEE

The 'Approval to Operate' fee is a service charge that covers the inspection of your system and administration costs associated with the program.



WHY DO I NEED THIS NOW?

The requirement of an Approval to Operate was introduced by the NSW Government from approximately 1997, when several cases of hepatitis and a major crisis in the local oyster industry were attributed to leaking septic systems.

It is the owner's responsibility to ensure all appropriate approvals are in place, are current and that their system is working effectively, reducing risk to Public health and the environment.

IF I OWN AN AERATED WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM (AWTS) AND PAY A SERVICE AGENT TO SERVICE MY SYSTEM QUARTERLY DO I STILL NEED TO HAVE AN INSPECTION DONE BY COUNCIL?

Yes. At this point in time the Council inspection is one of the only quality control regulators of this industry. Service agents are not licenced or regulated by any Government body. Inspections are undertaken by Environmental Health Officers from council to check the adequacy of the system as a whole and to ensure that the system is not impacting on public health or the environment.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY SEPTIC IS FAILING?

A Council officer will work closely with you to ensure that you understand why your system is failing and how to fix it. If your on-site sewage management system is failing Council may undertake enforcement action under the relevant legislation.

