on-site sewage management fee

OSSM Factsheet 9

Properties that have an On-Site Sewage Management (OSSM) system (eg septic tank, aerated wastewater treatment system) pay an annual management fee. This fee will be listed on your Rates and Charges Notice as a single bill.

» The OSSM fee covers

- part of the cost of conducting a survey of OSSM systems is to identify defective systems that threaten public or environmental health

- creation and dissemination of educational material and general advice that we provide to owners

» Background information

Following the Wallis Lake hepatitis outbreak 1997, the State Government introduced amendments to the Local Government Act making it an obligation for councils to better supervise septic installations and other OSSM systems. Council has been obliged to require the owners of non-sewered parcels of land with toilets or other improvements to seek an "approval to operate" OSSM systems whereas previously only an installation approval was required.

The ossm annual fee enables council to obtain the necessary revenue to supervise and manage the OSSM program (ie staff, resources, equipment, maintain a register, risk assessment, performance monitor/audit existing systems, approval to operate renewal process, education information etc). This fee is one component of a mix of revenue sources used by council to obtain the necessary funds to operate the OSSM program.

The Local Government Act permits a charge to be levied with rate assessments for work associated with OSSM.

The charge outlined above does not cover the initial approval to install or operate an OSSM system, transfer of approval to operate - (due to sale of property), reinspection fees, consulting fees, or administration fees applicable to any enforcement notices that may have been issued.

It should be noted that the program is partly subsidised from the general rate, on the basis of it being recognised that some benefits of the program accrue to the wider community.

» *If you have any questions or concerns please contact:*

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