

» septic tank decommissioning procedure and pumpout contractors

OSSM Factsheet 7

PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 2017



When existing non-sewered premises are connected to the sewer or a new septic system is installed, all redundant septic tank(s) are to be decommissioned using the procedure detailed below. This is to ensure that the redundant tank(s) do not cause any future public health or environmental problems.

» Procedure

- All effluent and sludge is to be removed from the redundant septic tank(s) by an approved contractor (see table) Note: retain the pumpout receipt for Council verification.
- After pumpout/cleanout, tank(s) are to be treated with Ag lime or hydrated lime to disinfect and neutralise the tanks. Care should be taken when using lime. It is recommended that appropriate precautionary steps be taken such as using personal protective equipment (skin protection, eye protection and respiratory protection).
- A copy of the MSDS for lime should be on hand. Only properly qualified persons should be employed to perform any procedures using chemicals.
- After treatment with lime, a hole or holes adequate for drainage are to be provided to the bottom of the tank(s).
- The concrete lids and portion of the tank walls are to be broken to below ground level.
- The tank(s) are to be filled with solid, non-putrescible fill; with the ground surface made good. If settling of the fill material occurs over time it may be necessary to make good the ground surface with further fill.

Contractors approved to carry liquid waste in Ballina Shire

| Contractor | Septic | Grease | Oil Liquids | Phone No |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|-------------|---------------------------|
| Ballina Pumping Service | ✓ | ✓ | x | 0437 963 976 6683 4843 |
| Motion Mover | ✓ | x | x | 6683 4993 |
| Richmond Waste | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 0407 433 405 6621 7431 |

» If you have any questions or concerns please contact:

Ballina Shire Council, Development and Environmental Health
Phone 6686 1210

