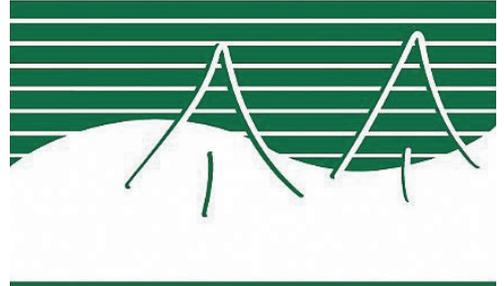


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OBERON



OBERON COUNCIL



This newsletter updates the status of the East Oberon sewerage scheme, part of the Oberon Sewerage Project

Scope: This component comprises the provision of reticulated sewerage to some 50 properties that are currently served by “On-Site Sewage Management Systems” (OSSMS), typically septic tanks.

Status: Council is not committed to implementing this part of the project. Council noted the objections of residents to the proposed sewerage of the area.

Performance of On-Site Systems. Council is concerned that the existing systems may impact on the environment and risk public health and safety. Council resolved to carry out an inspection that will determine the performance of the existing on-site systems in the area known as East Oberon (Stratford Downs Estate and neighbouring properties). This newsletter provides details on the inspection program.

Purpose of the Inspection. Liquid waste from on-site systems can cause disease and harm the environment if it is not properly treated. Statistically over 70% of septic tanks in NSW do not operate properly. Council will be undertaking inspections of on-site systems to ensure that they are sustainable and safe.

The inspections. Council contracted Building & Environmental Services Today (BEST) to carry out the inspections. Commencing the first week of September 2018, an authorised inspector from BEST will visit all residences in East Oberon. The inspections are non-invasive and would take less than one hour per property.

Residents are requested to assist the inspector by providing access to the septic tanks and trenches, and containing dogs or other animals.

Further information. Council will do a letter box drop to affected residences closer to the inspection and also write to all owners with the dates of the inspection.

Cost. This round of inspections is funded by Council, at no cost to property owners.

Land Owner’s Responsibilities. As a septic system owner,

you are responsible for –

- ensuring the house drains and tank don’t leak
- getting things fixed if they are not working properly
- keeping the system well maintained
- ensuring the system is checked regularly
- getting the tank pumped (de-sludged) when it becomes too full to process the flow going into it
- maintaining and protecting the absorption or disposal area
- complying with Council's requirements for installation, maintenance service and operation and paying fees for inspections or maintenance.

Council’s Responsibilities. Oberon Council is responsible for

- providing general services for the protection of the environment, public health and safety
- helping people understand how to keep their septic systems working well
- providing a scheme of systematic management for all of the septic systems in Council's area, including environmental monitoring and technical advice
- providing advice and contact information when people need professional services to design or maintain septic systems
- regulating the installation, operation and maintenance of septic systems, conducting audits and inspections and keeping a register of systems in use in Council's area
- providing community information and education programs
- monitoring and reporting on the overall impact of effluent and other by-products from septic systems in the State of the Environment Report for Council's area
- implementing strategies for ecologically sustainable development.

After the inspection. Owners will receive a copy of the inspection report and details of any issues that may need to be addressed. If any improvements or repairs are required to the OSSM, Council will:

- advise in writing of what needs to be done
- assist with advice
- discuss with a reasonable time to carry out repairs.

For more details about the project please contact
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