

**22.06-1**

21/09/2006  
C26(Part 1)

**EFFLUENT DISPOSAL AND WATER QUALITY**

This policy applies to all development that is unable to be serviced with reticulated sewerage.

**Policy Basis**

Development that cannot be serviced by reticulated sewerage should be located and designed to account for the sites unique environmental attributes and any nearby environmental features, such as creeks, rivers, lakes, springs, wetlands, bores and dams, particularly features providing water for stock, human or food production purposes.

**Objectives**

- § Ensure water quality and human and animal health is not affected by development.
- § Ensure that effluent disposal systems are suitable to the soil type and topography of the site, and are appropriately located away from environmentally sensitive features.

**Policy**

It is policy to:

- § Recognise the 'precautionary principle' when assessing the likelihood of environmental impact.
- § Discourage development in areas without reticulated sewerage unless it can be clearly demonstrated that the wastewater environmental impacts of the proposal can be negated.
- § Ensure all effluent disposal systems and effluent and irrigation fields are located at least 100 metres from any watercourse. Council may at its discretion agree to a reduction in this setback when topographic constraints would prevent the discharge of wastewater to a watercourse or other sensitive environmental features.
- § Encourage EPA approved package treatment plants.
- § Encourage the reuse of wastewater.

**Policy References**

- § *Guidelines for Environmental Management – Septic Tanks Code of Practice*, Environment Protection Authority, Publication 891, March 2003.
- § *Land Capability Assessment for Onsite Domestic Wastewater Management*, Environment Protection Authority, Publication 746.1, March 2003.
- § *State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria)*.
- § *North East Regional Catchment Strategy*, North East Catchment Management Authority, May, 2004.
- § *Upper North East Water Quality Strategy – An Action Plan within the North East Regional Catchment Strategy*, North East Catchment Management Authority, February 2001.
- § *Domestic Wastewater Management – A Planning Guide for Local Government: A Literature Review of the Public Health & Environmental Impacts of Domestic Wastewater*, James C. Smith & Associates P/L, November 2002.