



On-site Sewage Applications Help Sheet

When is an approval required for an On-site Sewage Management System?

Any installation, modification or changes to the operation of an On-Site Sewage Management System requires a Section 68 approval under the Local Government Act 1993 to be approved prior to commencing work. The application form for this Approval is often referred to as an ON SITE SEWAGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM APPLICATION and is available at Council or on the CHCC website.

Who can lodge an application?

Anyone can be the applicant for an On-site Sewage Application but if the applicant is not the owner of the land, the owner's written consent is required.

Design of OSSM Systems

On-Site Sewage Management Systems are to be designed to suit the hydraulic loads placed on the system and take into account the constraints of the soil and site to accept the waste.

Applicants will be assessed by Council for compliance with AS/NZS 1547-2000 On-site Domestic Wastewater Management and the CHCC On-site Sewage Management Strategy 2006.

Typical absorption trench calculations

(Please see Attachment 2)

Simple OSSM Applications

Where the proposed installation of a new system or modifications to an existing system generally comply with the requirements set out in the On Site Sewage Management Strategy the application may be submitted by a person with appropriate knowledge (eg. a plumber) for Council's consideration.

Complicated OSSM Applications/Constrained Sites

When a proposed new system or a modification to existing systems is more complicated due to confined spaces or environmentally sensitive areas it may be necessary to have a person more experienced in wastewater disposal submit a land capability assessment that can address all the limitations of the site.

RISK CATEGORIES

All on site sewage systems are given a risk category which will determine the management fees and inspection requirements for the system.



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required to be certified by NSW
Dept. of Health.

High Risk (yearly inspections required)

- These systems must be inspected every year because of a very high risk of failure or risk to the environment or public health.

Medium Risk (inspection each 3 years)

- Although the system may not be within the scope of the On-Site Sewage Management Strategy it is operating in a satisfactory condition but poses a risk to the environment or public health unless it is operated effectively at all times.

Low Risk (inspections each 6 years)

- The system complies with the On Site Sewage Management Strategy, is operating in a satisfactory condition and poses a small risk to the environment or public health.

Greywater Disposal

Greywater is waste water from domestic household fixtures not including toilets, urinals or kitchen sink waste water. All On-Site Wastewater Systems must be designed to accept both all black and all grey water.

Several systems are available for the separate treatment/reuse of greywater so it can be used for irrigation, clothes washing and flushing toilets. To achieve this, an On-Site Sewage Management Application must be approved by Council prior to installation. Greywater treatment devices are

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The NSW Government website www.waterforlife.nsw.gov.au has fact sheets which outline the use of greywater diversion devices that can be installed. The diversion devices are only to be used in conjunction with an approved On-Site Sewage Management System. They are not to be considered as a replacement.

It is important to treat this wastewater as indicated within the guidelines as it still has the potential to pollute and cause illness.

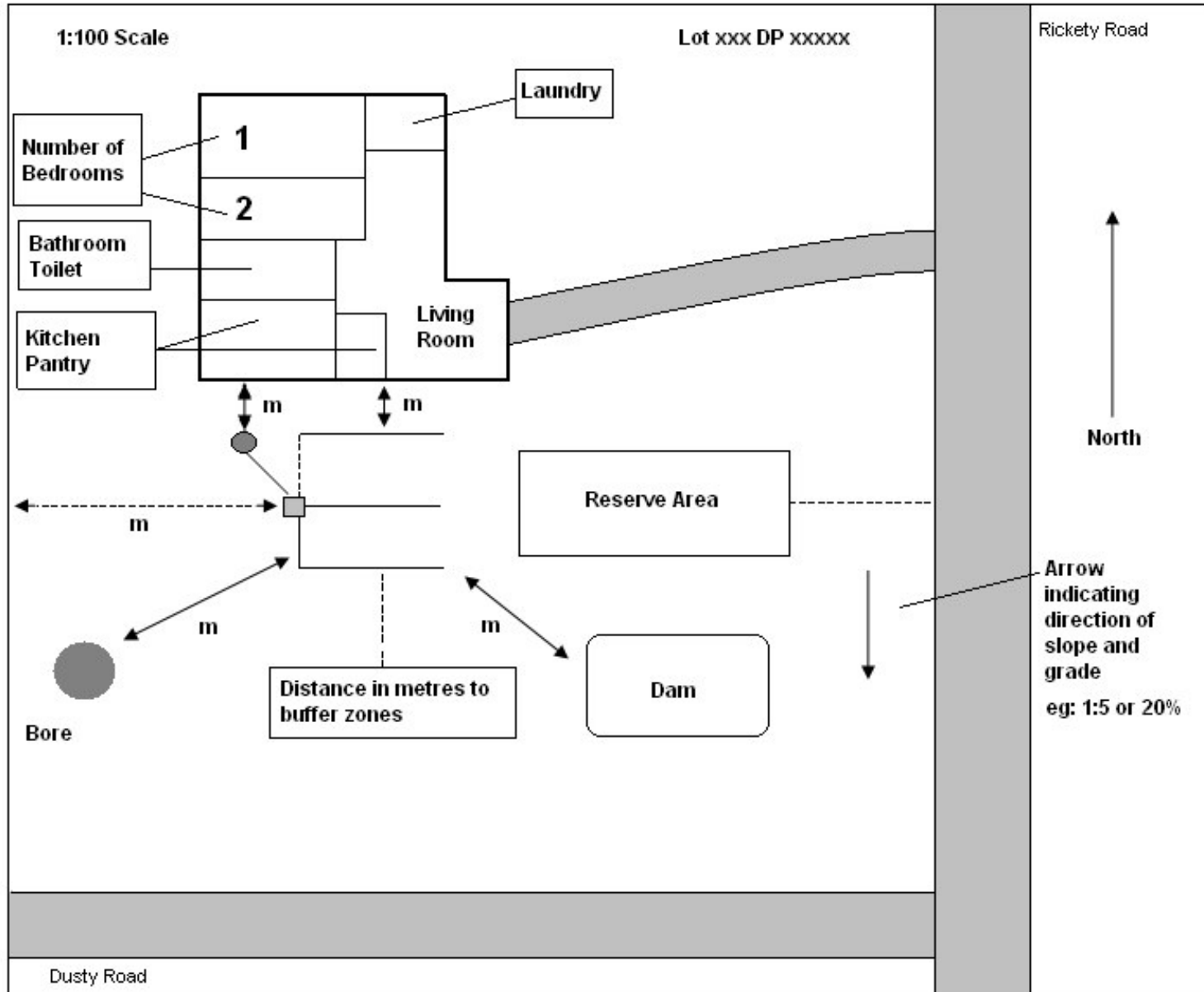
ENQUIRIES

For any questions or clarification of matters it is advised that you contact Councils' Health Branch on (02) 6648 4000.

Coffs Harbour City Council
Attention: The General Manager
Locked Bag 155
COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450

2 Castle Street, Coffs Harbour
Email: coffs.council@chcc.nsw.gov.au
Web: www.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au

**Attachment 1:
Example of a
Typical Site Plan**



This sample plan contains details that should be provided on your site plan. Plans can be hand drawn but must be legible and clear.

**Attachment 2:
Trench & Bed
Length
Calculations**

Trench & Bed Length Calculations

Trench and Bed Lengths are calculated as outlined in Section 4.2A of AS 1547: 2000.

The formula for calculating Trench Length (L) is:

$$L = \frac{Q}{DLR \times W}$$

Where:

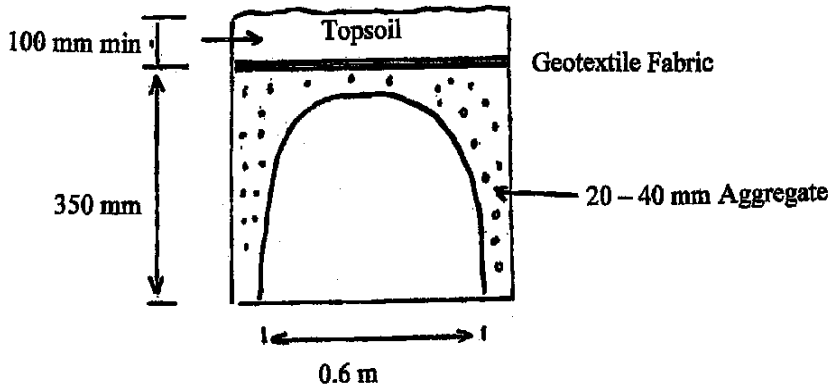
Q is the "Hydraulic Load" or design daily flow of wastewater from the dwelling in **Litres / Day**.

Q is calculated using the Table in Appendix 4.2D of AS 1547: 2000. Typical wastewater flow allowances in Litres/person/Day are multiplied by the number of persons in the dwelling (assessed as Number of Bedrooms + 1) to give **Q** in Litres / Day.

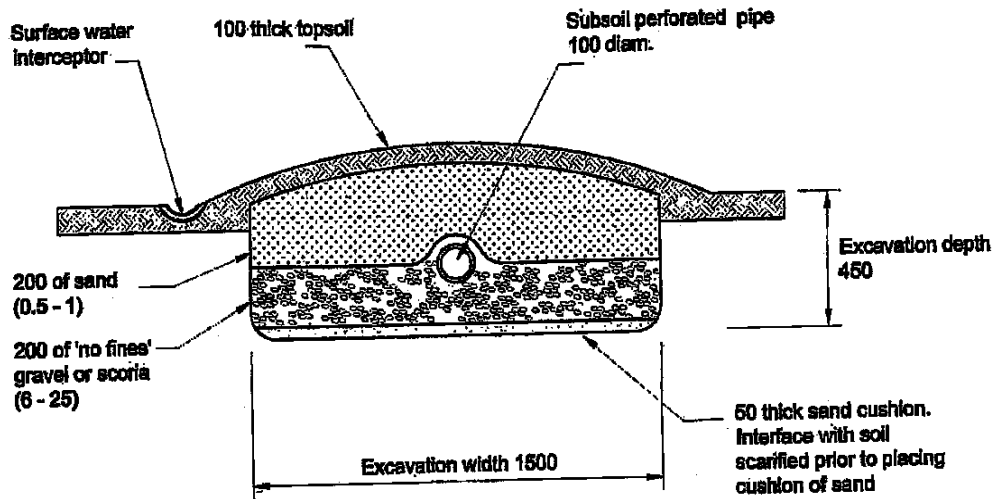
DLR is the "**Design Loading Rate**" or percolation rate of the soil present at the site in **mm / day**.

W is the "**Width**" of the trench or bed in **metres**.

Examples of Cross-Sectional Diagram of Trench / Bed Construction



Typical "Rein Trench"



Typical "ETA" Bed