

Nillumbik's Domestic Wastewater Management Plan



What is the Domestic Wastewater Management Plan?

Under the State Environment Protection Policy (Waters) for Victoria, Councils managing septic tanks systems are required to develop a Domestic Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP) in conjunction with the local water authority (for Nillumbik this is Yarra Valley Water) and the community. The DWMP is more than just the document produced at the end of the development process, it is the strategy that informs and directs all of Council's actions, projects and interventions relating to wastewater management across the Shire for the period of time that each successive Plan covers. Nillumbik Shire Council is currently in the process of developing the DWMP 2019.

This Plan is designed to not only meet Council's regulatory responsibilities but to assist Council in achieving best practice in the management of wastewater through a co-ordinated strategic response. The current Plan will provide a considered response to wastewater treatment with a focus on the roles and responsibilities of Council. It will include actions to be undertaken by Council, relevant partner agencies (such as Yarra Valley Water) and the community.

What is the purpose of the Domestic Wastewater Management Plan?

The **goal** of the DWMP is to:

- Prevent environmental pollution from wastewater treatment systems at the source, and where this is not possible to minimise the potential impacts on human health and the environment.

The **purpose** of the DWMP is to:

- Improve and enhance public health and environment protection within the Shire from the identified threats associated with wastewater.
- Identify current responsibilities, practices, procedures and obligations for wastewater management in the Shire of Nillumbik.
- Identify and prioritise the main environmental and public health risks posed by wastewater within the Shire.

- Assist with long term planning and development of un-sewered areas in the Shire.

The DWMP provides the opportunity to consolidate and address the many complex issues directly related to wastewater management. It involves an approach that engages and incorporates local community feedback and brings together the ideas and resources of different units within Council and the various other external organisations that have key roles in the wastewater management process (such as Yarra Valley Water).

How will the Domestic Wastewater Management Plan be implemented?

The Nillumbik DWMP will be implemented by Council primarily through the Action Plan that forms a key part of the Plan itself. The Action Plan details specific strategies and actions that Council will undertake. These include actions relating to:

- Providing information about wastewater management to new and existing property owners with septics.
- Advocating to YVW for the provision of sewer in high risk areas and Townships within Nillumbik.
- Mapping septics and high risk areas across the Shire.
- Working with property owners and residents to ensure public health and environmental risks are minimised.

DWMP roles and responsibilities?

Council is responsible for developing and implementing the Nillumbik DWMP. As a part of the development process we consult and engage with our community and Yarra Valley Water to ensure that the Plan is relevant, integrated and achievable.

Yarra Valley Water (YVW) is the local water authority responsible for supplying reticulated water and sewerage services to the Shire of Nillumbik. YVW owns, maintains and manages all of the reticulated water and sewerage assets contained within their asset network across their catchment.

YVW also undertakes planning, design, costing and community engagement activities targeted at progressively delivering new sewerage infrastructure for the areas included in their Community Sewerage Program.

YVW works in partnership with Council and the community to facilitate the community sewerage related strategies and Action Plan outcomes contained within the Nillumbik DWMP.

Council is responsible for driving and delivering all of the different actions and projects contained within the Plan.

Property owners and residents with a septic system play an important role by:

- Being familiar with their septic system.
- Ensuring that the system is regularly maintained in good working order.
- Ensuring that the wastewater is contained on-site and does not pose a risk to public health or the environment.

How will my feedback be used for DWMP?

The purpose of these drop-in sessions is to open a conversation with our community about domestic wastewater management and the wastewater issues that are important to you. We will be making note of the different issues that are raised during conversations at these sessions which will also help to identify common wastewater problems across our community.

The primary means of incorporating our community's feedback will be through the survey we will ask all attendants to complete at the session. Here, you can comment, make suggestions and raise any issues.

Make sure you complete and submit the survey to ensure your input is fed into the Nillumbik DWMP.

The Nillumbik DWMP will have a section dedicated to the community engagement activities undertaken and the discussion and feedback resulting from this.

Do it online

You can access further information or provide your feedback online at participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/dwmp

