

Responsible Department:	Development Services
Responsible Business Unit:	Environmental Health
Date of Review:	20 May 2026
Council Resolution:	110526

1. OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Policy is to establish a framework for the installation and management of wastewater systems within the Shire of Chittering, ensuring protection of public health, environmental values and water resources in accordance with relevant legislation and State Planning Policy.

2. SCOPE

This Policy applies to all development requiring onsite wastewater treatment and effluent disposal within the Shire of Chittering, particularly within areas identified as sensitive to nutrient export or water resource impact. It applies where reticulated sewerage is not available or not viable.

3. DEFINITIONS

Nutrient Retentive Effluent Disposal System means an onsite wastewater system designed to treat and dispose of effluent while minimising nutrient export to the environment.

Onsite Wastewater System means a system for the treatment and disposal of wastewater on the property where it is generated.

Sensitive Water Resource Area means an area identified as having environmental, ecological or public health significance in relation to water resources.

4. POLICY STATEMENT

All development within the Shire of Chittering requiring onsite effluent disposal must ensure that wastewater is managed in a manner that protects public health, maintains water quality and supports sustainable land use outcomes.

Consistent with State Planning Policy, onsite wastewater disposal will only be supported where reticulated sewerage is not available or viable, and where risks to environmental values and water resources can be appropriately managed.

4.1. Policy Provisions

Pursuant to the provisions of the *Health Act* and associated Regulations, the Shire requires that all new developments within identified sensitive Water Resource areas utilise a Nutrient Retentive Effluent Disposal System, including amended soils, as approved by the Principal Environmental Health Officer.

All systems must be designed, installed and operated in accordance with the Code of Practice for the design, manufacture, installation and operation of secondary treatment systems, published by the Department of Health under Section 344A(2) of the *Health Act*.

Nutrient Removal Effluent Disposal Systems

The Code of Practice is to be read in conjunction with the *Health (Treatment of Sewage and Disposal of Effluent and Liquid Waste) Regulations 1974* and the conditions of approval issued by the Shire of Chittering.

Where a site and soil evaluation has been undertaken in accordance with Department of Health guidelines, the findings of that study will inform system design and may take precedence in determining the most appropriate effluent disposal method.

In accordance with State Planning Policy 2.9, development must ensure that onsite wastewater systems do not adversely impact groundwater, surface water, ecological systems or public health, and must adopt a risk-based approach to wastewater management.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Council is responsible for establishing the policy framework for wastewater management within the Shire.

The Chief Executive Officer (or delegated authority) is responsible for ensuring implementation of this Policy and issuing approvals where required.

The Principal Environmental Health Officer is responsible for assessing applications, approving system types, and ensuring compliance with health legislation, State policy and technical standards.

Applicants and property owners are responsible for ensuring systems are installed, operated and maintained in accordance with approvals, manufacturer specifications and legislative requirements.

6. COMPLIANCE

Legislation	<i>Health Act 1911</i> <i>Health (Treatment of Sewage and Disposal of Effluent and Liquid Waste) Regulations 1974</i>
Industry	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage Department of Health – Code of Practice (ATUs) State Planning Policy 2.9 – Water
Organisational Documents	
Strategic Alignment	

7. ADMINISTRATION

Review Cycle	Every 3 years	Next Review Due	August 2028
Policy Owner	Principal Environmental Health Officer		
Version	Decision Ref	Date	Change
1.0		19/05/2021	Initial adoption
2.0	110526	20/05/2026	Amendment