



Onsite Wastewater Management Plan 2025-2030

What is an Onsite Wastewater Management Plan (OWMP)?

An OWMP identifies and outlines strategies for managing the potential risks to public health and the environment posed by onsite wastewater management systems (such as septic tanks) in areas without access to mains sewerage.

Councils within Victoria are required to review and update their Onsite Wastewater Management Plan (OWMP) every five years under State legislation (the *EP Act 2017*).

Shaping our plan

Council's draft plan for 2025-2030 has been shaped by input we received earlier this year when we sought community feedback on our current plan (Domestic Wastewater Management Plan 2019-2024). Thank you to everyone who provided feedback. Your input has helped us shape the draft plan we are presenting to you now.

Council endorsed the draft OWMP 2025-2030 for community consultation at its August 2025 Council Meeting, and is now inviting community feedback on the draft plan until 28 September 2025.



Why your input matters

Whether you're a resident with a septic tank, an installer, a plumber, landholder, or simply interested in protecting water quality and natural ecosystems, your feedback is valuable. We're seeking community input to ensure the plan reflects local needs, challenges, and opportunities.

Expected outcomes of the plan:

- Reduced wastewater risks to public health and the environment.
- Updated wastewater systems policies and guidelines (installation, maintenance and compliance).
- Improved environmental protections for waterways and groundwater.
- More consistent and transparent decision making for development (regarding wastewater).
- Better management and monitoring of systems (including education and support for owners).



New inclusions in the draft plan

Council's draft OWMP 2025-2030 includes:

- legislative and policy changes relating to OWM;
- updated Risk Assessment Framework procedure (in line with current OWM guidelines);
- planning and development changes (since 2019);
- updated OWM Risk mapping;
- incorporation of revised Council priorities and projects;
- a review of internal OWM procedures and processing (including evaluation of OWM system trends);
- new technical data and advances in OWM technology and management practices; and
- an updated Action Plan for the forward planning period (2025-2030).

What makes up the plan?

The draft plan consists of two components: the Onsite Wastewater Management Operational Plan 2025-2030, and the Technical Document.

Key inclusions of the plan:

- *Risk Assessment Approach* - all unsewered properties within the shire are assigned a risk rating to inform how wastewater will be managed on site. Council will use risk data to prioritise inspections, compliance and education. It will also use this data to inform proposals for future Onsite Wastewater Management Systems.
- *An Action Plan for the forward planning period (2025-2030)* – including activities such as: digitising septic tank permit records, annual process reporting with water corporations, training staff in risk assessment and compliance, compliance audits, cumulative risk assessment (CRA) studies for high-risk catchments, community education and support for system owners, and review of the OWMP every 5 years.



How to have your say

Consultation on Council's draft Onsite Wastewater Management Plan 2025-2030 is open for feedback from now until 28 September 2025.

For more information, visit yoursay.mrsc.vic.gov.au/OWMP or contact Leila Anstice, Coordinator Environmental Health, on 5421 9665 or lanstice@mrsc.vic.gov.au

 **Share your thoughts from now until 11.59pm 28 September 2025** 