22.20 EFFLUENT DISPOSAL AND WATER QUALITY

This policy applies to development is unable to be serviced by reticulated sewerage.

Policy Basis

Development that cannot be serviced by a reticulated sewerage system be designed, sited and developed to prevent pollution of land and water resources.

Objectives

- To ensure water quality is not affected by development.
- To prevent the discharge of effluent off site.
- To ensure that the density of effluent disposal systems is suitable to the soil type and topography of the site.
- To provide for alternative effluent disposal systems, such as package treatment plants.

Implementation

It is policy that:

- All effluent disposal systems, effluent and irrigation fields be located a minimum of 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 waste water to a watercourse.
- Commercial, residential or industrial development be discouraged unless it can be clearly demonstrated that such an activity will provide a net benefit to the stability or health of the waterway.
- Clearance of vegetation be discouraged within 20 metres of a designated waterway without consent from the relevant water authority.
- Package treatment plants and other alternative methods of waste water treatment that recycle waste water for use in domestic gardens and irrigated areas will be considered where appropriate. Certification that the proposed systems are licensed to operate in Victoria should be provided.
- Topographic maps, detailing areas that can be irrigated without discharging waste water from the site, be provided with each application.
- It should be clearly demonstrated that septic tanks and other forms of waste water treatment will neither increase the peak discharge, volume of discharge or quality of discharge to a watercourse.
- Soil percolation tests for each allotment be provided with each application.
- A percolation report be provided with each application certifying that the proposed septic tank:
  - Will not overload the natural environment with effluent and lead to pollution of watercourses or other properties.
  - Is appropriate to the site and environmental characteristics of the allotment.
- All activities requiring planning approval within 100 metres of a designated waterway be referred to the relevant water authority.