

Community Wastewater Management Scheme (CWMS) Policy

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Corporate Plan:	<i>Enter detail</i>
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Council File Reference:	<i>Council Policies (P)</i>
Applicable Legislation:	<i>Local Government Act 1999</i>
Relevant Policies:	<i>Nil</i>
Related Procedures:	<i>Nil</i>
Delegations:	<i>Berri Barmera Council Delegations Register</i>

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy to establish a framework for the operations and maintenance of Council's Community Wastewater Management Systems (CWMS). This policy will assist in ensuring the provision of a sustainable CWMS network throughout the Council area that meets the needs of the community while complying with relevant legislation and standards.

CWMS is a system designed to collect, treat, re-use and/or dispose of primary treated effluent from septic tanks on individual properties. Council as the manager of CWMS assets, is responsible for the operation, maintenance, upgrading and replacement of the existing systems within the Council area. Council will maintain a plan of its CWMS networks and schedule regular upgrades/maintenance of the systems.

To assist in the long term management of the scheme this policy has been developed to ensure no disadvantage to existing users is caused by the increased wear and tear to the infrastructure by reason of new connections.

2. Definitions

Council	Berri Barmera Council
CWMS	Community Wastewater Management Scheme
CWMS Infrastructure	All facilities owned by the Council and used for the purposes of collecting, treating and re-use/disposal of wastewater. It includes the connection point provided to each property.
CWMS Connection Fee	Applies when a property connects to the CWMS
CWMS Augmentation Charge	A charge raised by Council pursuant to Section 188(1)(a) and (b) of the Local Government Act 1999

CWMS Service Charge	An annual service charge imposed by the Council pursuant to Section 155 of the Local Government Act 1999 to recover the costs of providing the CWMS.
CWMS Connection Point	The infrastructure that joins the CWMS mains to a specific allotment. The extent of a 'connection point' runs from the CWMS main to the property boundary, and does not include any mains line extensions
Septic Tank	Is a single or multiple chambered tank through which wastewater is allowed to flow slowly to permit suspended matter to settle and be retained, and that organic matter contained therein can be partially decomposed by anaerobic bacteria action. The term covers the tanks that are used to treat all wastewater and greywater. All wastewater infrastructure with a property boundary is the responsibility of the land owner.
Wastewater	Water that is collected and transported through waste pipes and sewer and includes water from domestic, commercial and industrial sources. It includes effluent.
The Act	The Local Government Act 1999

3. Principles

This policy intends to ensure the economic, environmental and social sustainability of the CWMS infrastructure, and to provide for sustainable development within the Berri Barmera Council Area.

4. Policy Statement

Section 188 of the *Local Government Act 1999* entitles the Council to impose a fee or charge for the use of any property or facility owned, controlled, managed or maintained by the Council.

4.1. New Connections

Pursuant to Section 188 of the Act, the Council requires a person who obtains development authorisation in respect of a land division application, to pay an augmentation fee to the Council for each new allotment that will utilise Council's CWMS infrastructure and where multiple dwellings are to be sited on a single allotment and it is a requirement for each dwelling to connect to the CWMS.

The augmentation fee to connect to Council's CWMS system, is reflected in Council's Fees and Charges Register, which is available for viewing at www.berribarmera.sa.gov.au and is reviewed annually. Allotments already existing and paying a CWMS contribution fee shall not pay an augmentation fee to connect to the system.

To gain approval to install a new connection point to Council's CWMS infrastructure the fee must be paid and the application form completed.

To gain approval to extend the CWMS line an application is required to be submitted to SA Health Wastewater Management Section and an application fee paid.

4.2. CWMS Service Charges

In accordance with Section 155 of the Local Government Act 1999, Council may impose an annual service charge on rateable (and non-rateable) land to which it provides or makes available a CWMS connection.

This charge is an annual fee payable for the collection, treatment of or disposal of wastewater and effluent and the ongoing maintenance and replacement of CWMS infrastructure.

The fee will be reviewed through budget deliberations annually and unit charges will be based using the Code of Establishing and Applying Property Units for the Imposition of Annual Service Charges for CWMS. The fee will be based on the cost to provide such services to relevant properties and also take into account operating, maintenance and depreciation costs as well as providing funds for capital replacement of the networks.

4.3. Septic Tank Desludging

Council will operate a septic tank desludging (pump-out) program and maintain a database of when septic tanks connected to the CWMS are desludged. Any additional pump outs of septic tanks outside of the program are the responsibility of the landowner to make necessary arrangements with a private contract, including payment.

4.4. Additional connections to CWMS

All cost for the physical connection of a new allotment(s) to the CWMS main will be the responsibility of the applicant/developer. Consultation with Council Officers is required prior to any works being carried out.

Applications for the installation of all new CWMS Connection Points and CWMS line extensions and/or modifications must be received by Council, with the associated fee.

All works are to be undertaken in accordance with the on-site wastewater systems code, the relevant Australian Standards and Council's standard drawings by suitably qualified and licensed persons.

5. Confidentiality

Any information provided will be treated as strictly confidential. Information provided to the Council's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) will be securely retained within Council's records.

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