



Glenthompson Onsite Wastewater Inspection Program

*Community Information Meeting
3 August 2016*

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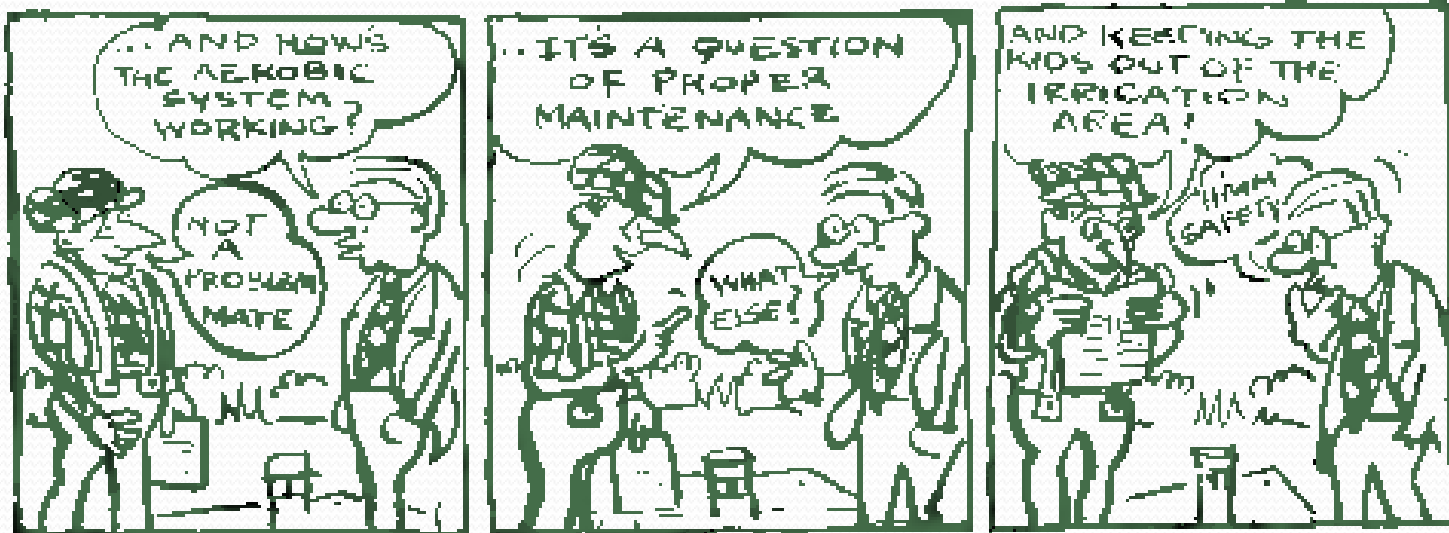
- Introduction
- Septic Permit to Install / Alter
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- Questions

No individual circumstances will be discussed during the forum to respect confidentiality

Please contact Council Environmental Health Department to arrange a time to discuss individual circumstances

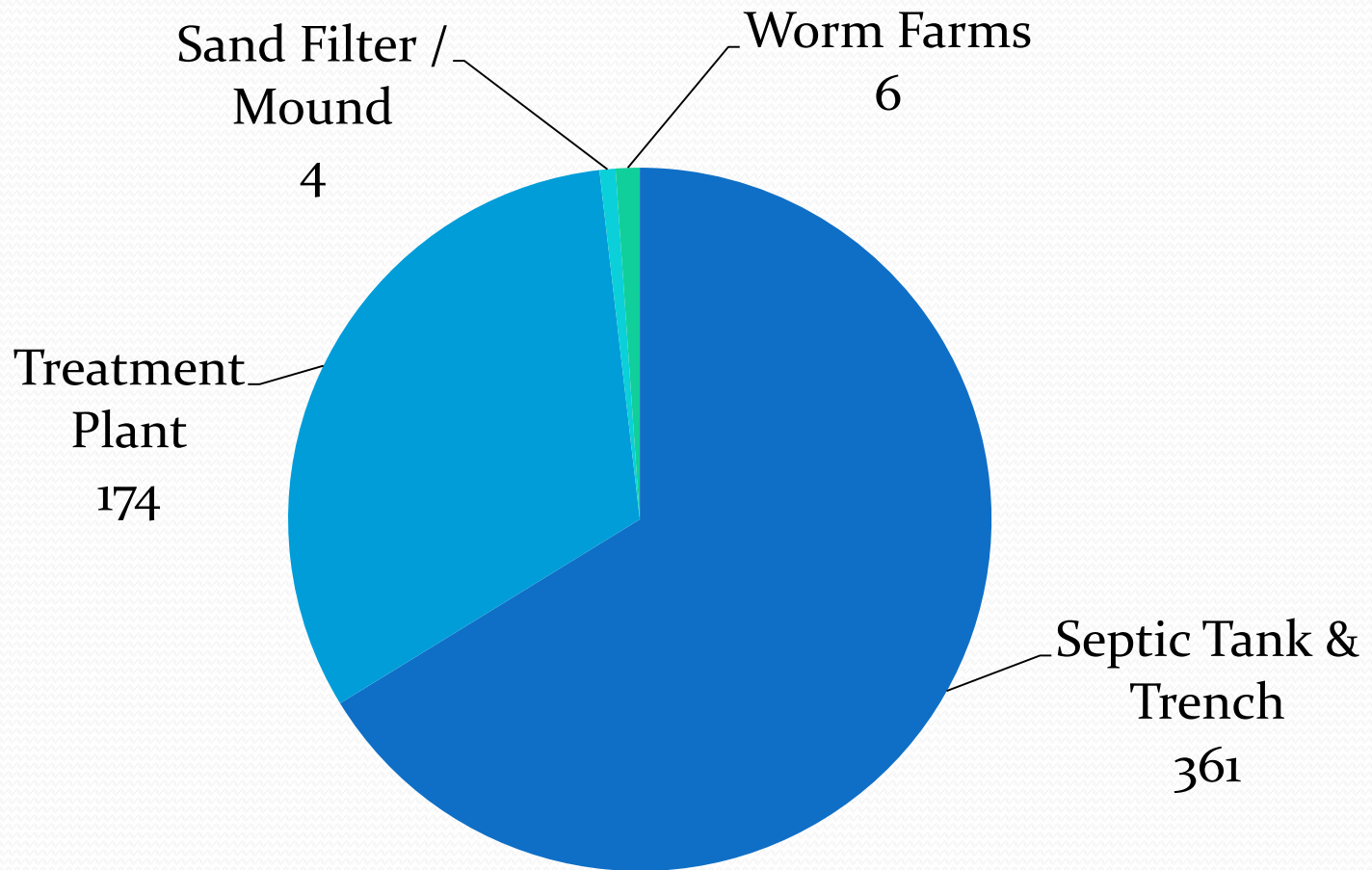
Introduction

- Estimated >5000 properties within the Southern Grampians Shire have onsite sewage management systems (septic systems)
- Many are split systems (ie Blackwater enters trenches & grey water discharges onsite or offsite into drains)



Year	Septic Tank & Trench	Treatment Plant	Sand Filter / Mound	Worm Farms	Total
2001/02	15	15	0	0	30
2002/03	30	20	0	0	50
2003/04	29	10	0	1	40
2004/05	41	10	0	1	51
2005/06	38	10	0	0	48
2006/07	26	16	2	0	45
2007/08	23	18	0	0	41
2008/09	21	6	0	1	28
2009/10	15	6	0	0	21
2010/11	27	9	0	0	36
2011/12	22	15	0	1	38
2012/13	28	10	0	1	39
2013/14	25	19	0	0	44
2014/15	22	11	1	1	35
Total	337	156	3	6	511

No. of Septic Permits To Install issued for types of Wastewater Mangement Systems Within SGSC 2001 - 2015



Regulations

- Environment Protection Act 1970
 - **Council's responsibility**
 - Consider wastewater management matters when approving rezones, subdivisions and building construction & site plans
 - Approve Septic system installation & alteration permits
 - Monitor Septic Systems to ensure they comply with permit conditions
 - Abate nuisances caused by septic systems that have a Septic Permit
 - **Individual responsibility**
 - Obtain a Septic Permit from Council when installing & altering Septic system
 - Comply with Septic Permit Conditions & EPA requirements
 - To not pollute any waters so that the condition of the waters are harmful to public health or environment.

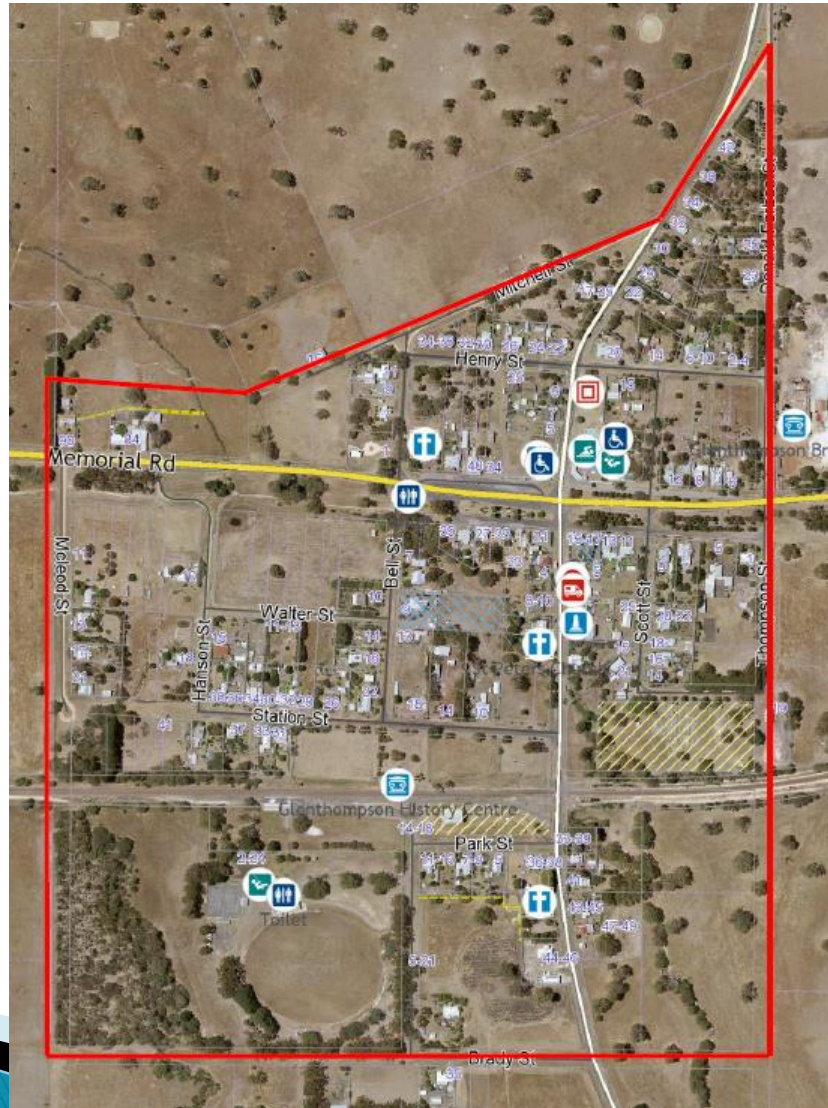
Regulations

- Public Health & Wellbeing Act 2008
 - **Council's responsibility**
 - Seek to protect, improve & promote public health
 - Remedy, as far as reasonable, all nuisances (i.e. dangerous or are liable to be dangerous to health or offensive)
 - Issue notices to persons to remedy / prevent activity which is likely or is liable to be dangerous to house
 - Take action in Magistrate Court when notices have not be complied with or the nuisances is likely to re occur
 - **Individual responsibility**
 - To not cause a nuisance or knowingly allow a nuisance emanate for any land owned or occupied.
 - Remedy / prevent activity which is or is liable to be dangerous to health

Potential impacts of failing systems

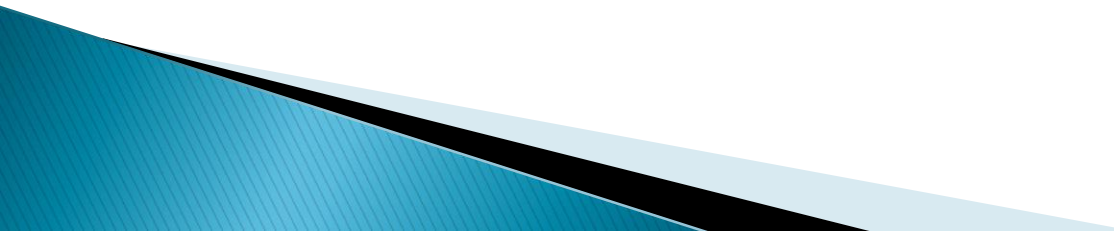
Human Health	Environmental	Social
Spread of disease (human & animal)	Pollution of surface water	Decreased amenity
Spread of minor illnesses	Pollution of groundwater	Odour
Harbourage of vermin (mosquitoes – transmit arboviruses)	Degradation of soils	Impacts on infrastructure (stormwater)
	Degradation of native vegetation	Financial for system owners
	Increased weed growth	Impact on economic development

Wastewater Management System Inspection Area



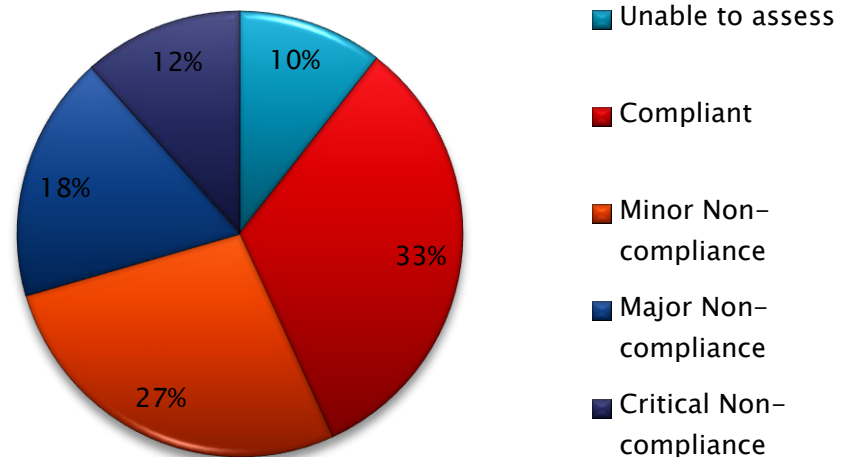
Wastewater Inspection Parameters

- **85** systems were inspected within the project area.
 - Each property was assessed for a number of parameters;
 - **Structural features** (e.g. Septic tank lids, condition of trench & pipework)
 - **Physical condition** (e.g. Sludge levels, storm water management, soil type, bores)
 - **Maintaining wastewater onsite** (e.g. effluent entering storm water)
 - **Maintenance provision** (e.g. Vegetation, sludge pump out & plumbing history)

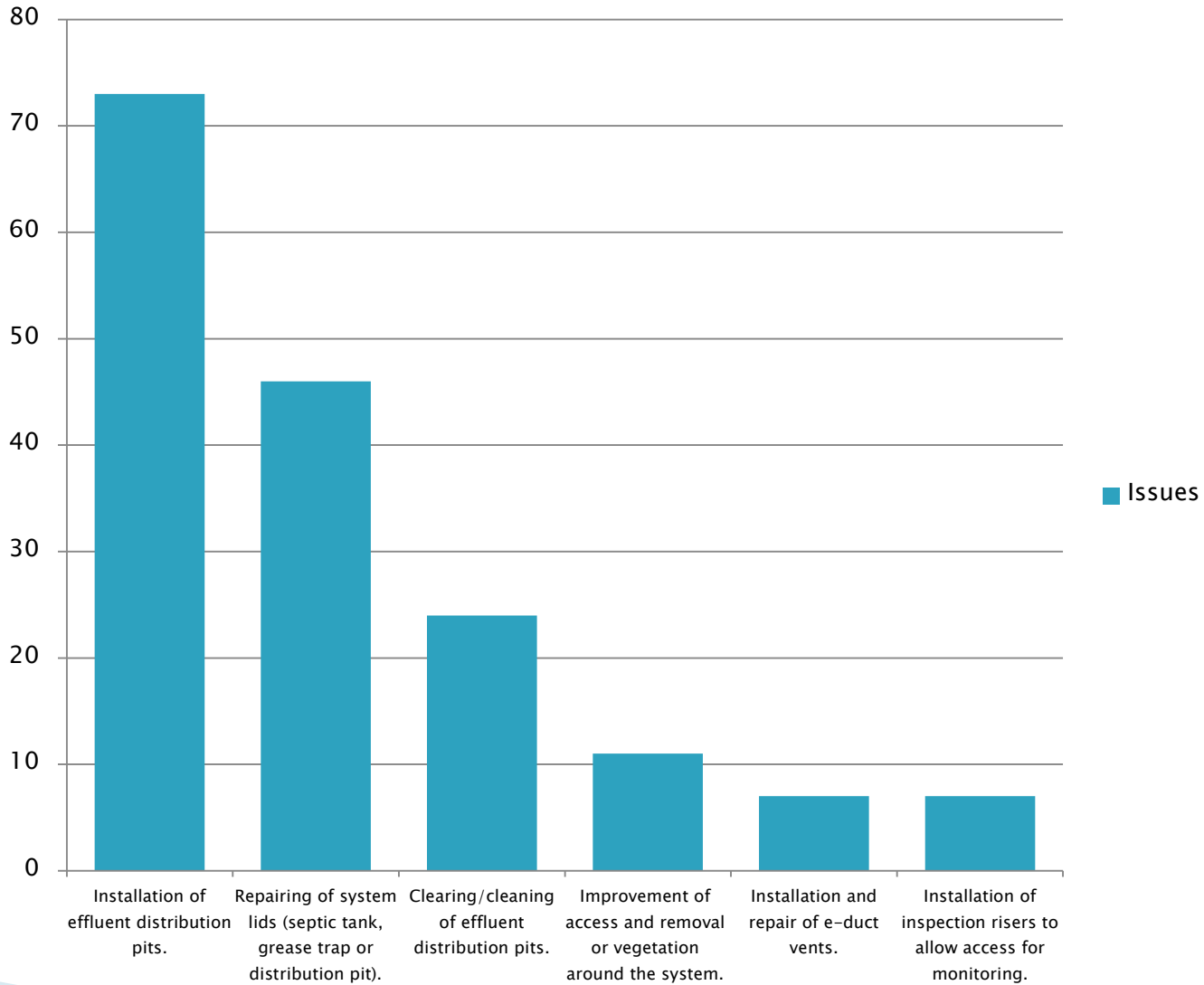
 - Few systems were unable to be assessed for varying reasons, ranging from sealed lids to inaccessible systems
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Results

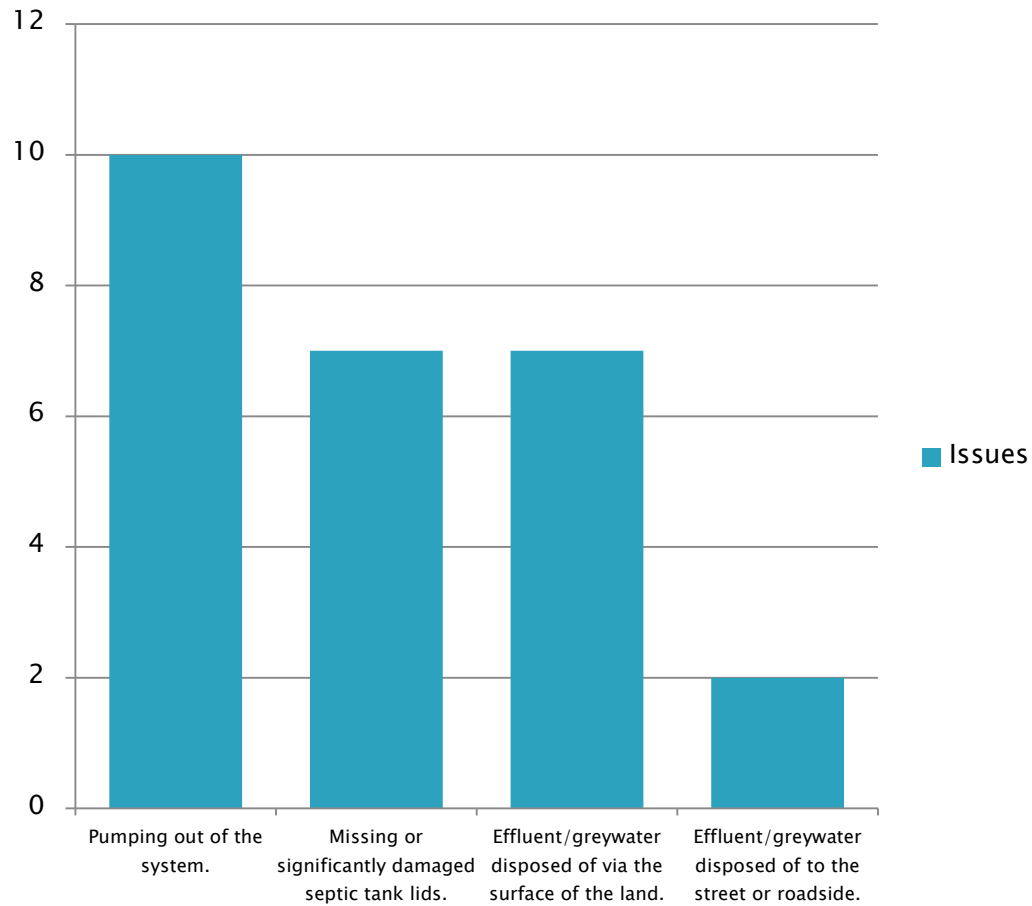
- Properties were classified into one of four categories;
 - **Compliant (Pass)**– meets current standards
 - **Minor Non-compliance (Minor problems)**– simple, relatively low cost repairs/maintenance required
 - **Major Non-compliance (Major problems)**– major repairs required (i.e. pump-out, new tank/lids)
 - **Critical Non-compliance (Failed systems)** – replacement of septic tank and/or trenches required
- Inspections indicated;
 - 31 Compliant
 - 26 Minor Non-compliance
 - 17 Major Non Compliance
 - 11 Critical Non-compliance



Common Minor Non-compliances



Common Major Non-compliances



Where to from here?

- Information collected will assist Council & community in future decision making in the management of wastewater in Penshurst.
- Report prepared detailing the findings of the inspections.
- Information updated on Council databases to reflect the presence of various systems and system conditions.
- Continued improvements to existing systems



Why?

- The overall condition of systems inspected was above expectation.
- Only very few inspections identified issues requiring major repairs.
- Despite the rock, the soil quality in Penshurst appears quite good for wastewater disposal methods.
- The majority of, if not all, systems inspected are in a condition suitable to be maintained or repaired to a suitable standard.



Further Information

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www.sthgrampians.vic.gov.au
Council@sthgrampians.vic.gov.au

Environmental Protection Authority
(EPA) - onsite wastewater

www.epa.vic.gov.au/your-environment/water/onsite-wastewater

EPA Code of Practice Onsite
Wastewater Management -
Publication no. 8913, February 2013
<http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/~media/Publications/891%203.pdf>

Legislation

www.austlii.edu.au/au/vic/

Questions

