



5. ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES

5.1 HEALTH

5.1.1 Sewerage Connections

Background & Issues

This policy outlines options applicable to sewerage connections within the Shire. These include deferment of connection, consideration of pensioners and assessment of requests for loans for the purpose of funding private sewerage connections.

In all cases where repairs of a major nature or replacement of effluent disposal systems is necessary to ensure the continued satisfactory operation of the septic system, connection to the sewer is to be required forthwith.

Objectives

The key objectives of this policy are to provide clear guidance for staff in determining:

1. If a sewer connection may be deferred
2. The need for a self-supporting loan provided by the Shire.

Area of Application

This policy applies to resident owners of property only. Changes to an owner's place of residence and / or sale of the property will advance the connection to sewer requirement date.

Policy Measures

Pensioners

Applications from pensioners for the deferment of connection to deep sewer are to be investigated by Shire staff and resolved as follows:

- (a) Exemption may be granted for the duration of occupancy of the pensioner and is subject to the continued satisfactory operation and maintenance of the septic system to the premises.
- (b) Subject to the availability of finance, Council may choose to finance the connection of the premises to deep sewer by way of a self-supporting loan with all costs recouped from the beneficiary.

It may be negotiated that money is to be repaid by the owner or may remain as a charge against the pensioner's estate.

Non Pensioners

Deferment

Applications from ratepayers, other than pensioners for the deferment of connection to deep sewer are to be investigated by Shire staff and resolved as follows:



5. ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES

5.1 HEALTH

5.1.1 Sewerage Connections

- a) Deferment to sewer connection may be granted for a period of up to 12 months maximum on the proviso that continued satisfactory operation of the septic system to the premises is maintained.
- b) The resident owner is able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of Shire Staff that genuine financial hardship exists.

In all cases where repairs of a major nature or replacement of effluent disposal systems is necessary to ensure the continued satisfactory operation of the septic system, connection to the sewer is to be required forthwith.

Loans

As a non budgeted item, a request to the Shire for a loan which enables connection to sewer will be investigated by Shire staff with a report being presented to Council for consideration after staff having established that:

- a) Genuine financial hardship exists
- b) Alternative avenues of financing have been examined and exhausted.
- c) Repairs are of a major nature and necessary, therefore requiring connection to the sewer forthwith.

Loans are required to be self-supporting, provided all costs are recouped from the beneficiary and that adequate security is taken to cover the debt.

The recommendation would be presented to Council for consideration and would require an absolute majority to pass.

Administration

This policy is to be administered by Statutory Services

Adoption and Date Due for Revision

**ADOPTED 22 AUGUST 2002
REVISED 13 FEBRUARY 2014**

DUE FOR REVIEW FEBRUARY 2018

The Administration of this Policy is by Statutory Services Division.