



YOUNG SHIRE COUNCIL

# **PRESSURE SEWER SYSTEMS POLICY**

**No 102**

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## 1 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

Young Shire Council's aim is to provide a cost effective sewerage service that meets health and environmental requirements and is also consistent with the development needs of the community.

Gravity sewer is the preferred option for Council's sewerage network however it is recognised that in some instances the use of such systems is not always possible. In these circumstances Council will need to consider the use of pressure sewer systems.

Pressure sewer systems can offer an economical and environmentally-friendly alternative for the collection, transportation and disposal of household wastes. They are often used in areas where it is impractical to install conventional gravity sewer.

### 1.1 Definitions

**Boundary kit** – A valve box at the property boundary incorporating an isolating valve, non return valve and inspection tee.

**House drain** – The internal plumbing drain pipe connecting into the pressure sewer unit (PSU).

**Discharge pipe** – The pipeline from the PSU to the pressure sewer main via the boundary kit.

**Control panel** – The box incorporating the alarm controls for the pump and the emergency generator connection point.

**Emergency storage** – That capacity in the pressure sewer unit above the high level alarm point.

**High level alarm** – An alarm activated when the volume of wastewater in the storage vessel exceeds the normal level that controls the pump by a pre-determined amount.

**Overflow relief gully** – Overflow control device to prevent overflows occurring in the dwelling.

**Pressure sewerage system** – An overall system including the PSU, control panel, discharge pipe, boundary kit and pressure sewer pipes up to a discharge point in a conventional sewer.

**Storage vessel** – The container in which the pump is located and is typically made from plastic compounds of fibreglass.

**Split system** – A system involving disposal to septic via blackwater or greywater.

## 2 PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES

The present policy provides a framework for the provision of pressure sewer systems within the shire of Young. It specifies the responsibilities of Council and property owners with respect to the installation of pressure sewerage systems and outlines the circumstances where pressure sewer will be accepted by Council.

## 3 POLICY

Young Shire Council will allow the installation of Pressure Sewerage Systems (PSS) to provide sewerage services where other forms of connections cannot be effectively or economically used, or where pressure systems have particular environmental, economic or social benefits.

Council has accepted pressure sewerage systems as a suitable alternative technology to gravity systems, under the following conditions:

- § Pressure Sewerage Systems will only be used in areas designated as appropriate for its use by Young Shire Council.

- § The particular application of the pressure sewerage system represents the lowest whole of life costs for Council.
- § There are particularly unique environmental or physical constraints that only this type of sewerage system addresses.
- § The proposed pumping units are of a type being supported by Council (see technical guidelines).

Where pressure sewer proves to be the most appropriate technology for a particular application, it may be adopted (by the Council) as the means for providing sewerage services to a wider area.

The system must be designed in accordance with Council pressure sewer guidelines.

### **3.1 Ownership of the residential pumping units**

Once the PSS is installed the ownership of the system in this standard configuration will reside with Council and it will include:

- Pump unit
- Property discharge line (s) from the pump to the property boundary assembly
- Control/ alarm panel
- Property boundary kit
- Pump control/ power cable
- The first flexible joint on the inlet side to the PSS storage vessel will be the hydraulic termination point for council ownership of the pressure sewerage system.

Council will provide maintenance and repair to the PSS unit and its components. Once ownership is passed to Council it will provide response to alarms from the system.

### **3.2 Property Owner's Responsibility**

The property owner is responsible for:

- § The cost of the initial installation of the PSS;
- § Payment of the annual sewerage availability charge;
- § Payment for the electricity supply to the unit;
- § Ensuring reasonable access for Council staff or its contractors to conduct work on the PSS;
- § Preventing damage to the system by following the household guide provided by Council;
- § All other terms and conditions as detailed in the service agreement to be entered into between Council and the property owner.

### **3.3 Replacing existing private pumps**

Existing properties that discharge into a reticulated main through a private pumping arrangement (pump up) may continue to operate their private system, if they are able to demonstrate satisfactory performance of the existing system. These pumps are not covered by this policy and remain the responsibility of the property owner and resident.

Property owners may apply to convert their existing private system to a Council approved and maintained pressure system. This will be at the owner's expense and applications should be made through Council's Utility Services Department.

#### **4 RELATED DOCUMENTATION**

This is a policy document only and is further supported by the following documents that also pertain to the use of pressure sewerage systems in the Young Local Government Area:

- § Water Services Association of Australia (WSAA) Pressure Sewerage Code
- § Pressure Sewerage System Home Owner's Manual including Terms and Conditions
- § Young Shire Council Technical Specification on Pressure Sewerage systems
- § The Technology Suppliers Installation Instructions (Specific to application)
- § The Technology Suppliers Warranty (Specific to application)
- § *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005,*
- § *Local Government Act 1993,*

#### **5 RESPONSIBILITY**

Young Shire Council's Director, Utility Services is responsible for the implementation and review of this policy. This policy shall be reviewed every four years, or as a result of any relevant legislative changes.