

# Private pumping stations

Development Services – information sheet 11A

The Water Corporation prefers gravity sewerage systems to service properties. However, sometimes a gravity flow connection from a property is not possible. In such cases, the Corporation may allow an alternative method to connect the property to its system.

## How do I qualify?

The criteria used to assess eligibility is as follows:

- The property must be within the Water Corporation's Operating Licence Area.
- The proposed service is to only a single lot.
- The property is not part of a subdivision where the Corporation recommends a reticulated sewer service.
- The Corporation's system is capable of servicing the proposal, and
- The Corporation is satisfied that orderly development will not be frustrated by the proposal.

## Terms and Conditions

The **property owner** agrees to enter a servicing agreement with the Corporation, accepting responsibility for:

- Engaging a suitably qualified engineer to design and supervise the construction of the pressure sewer system following procedures outlined in the Water Corporation's Developer's Manual,
- maintaining, repairing and all running costs,
- all plumbing inside the property and the sewer/pressure main that connects to the corporation's sewers,
- clearing any blockages that occur up to the connection point to the Corporation's sewer,
- any nuisance (including odour problems and noise) or damage caused by the System's discharge,
- complying with relevant statutes, by-laws, and any other legislation on the discharge of wastewater and where applicable, industrial waste; and,
- paying all relevant Water Corporation servicing fees and charges
- lodging a Notification under Section 70A of the Transfer of Land Act on the title stating the sewerage service is subject to an agreement between the owner and the Corporation.

The **Corporation** may discontinue the service:

- where the owner breaches the terms of the Agreement, any statute, or by-law, about the service.
- if the permission for continued access for the pressure main in a reserve or another lot is withdrawn.
- immediately, if the Corporation believes there is inappropriate discharge of wastewater that may cause risk to the wastewater system customers.
- Within 12 months, of a suitable gravity connection point being provided to the land.

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Do these systems need much maintenance?**

The system is a mechanical system and like all mechanical systems will need periodical maintenance, you should consult with the installer to set up a maintenance plan for your system.

### **Am I limited on what I can pour down the drain?**

As with conventional sewer systems, no strong chemicals, oils, flammables, glass, metal, nappies, plastics, petrochemicals (e.g. Petrol, engine oil) should never be poured down the drain as they damage the pump.

### **What do I do if I go away for a long period?**

Very little. The system does not need to be turned off or altered before you leave. If you plan to be away for more than one week, make the shower or the washing machine the last use before you go. This will flush the system out.

### **Is there an alarm to warn me if something is wrong?**

Check with the plumber installing your system.

### **What do I do when the alarm comes on?**

The alarm may sound when the pump fails or if the tank fills to the upper limit faster than the pumping rate of the pump. In these instances, call a plumber.

### **What happens if the power fails? Will the pump still work? Will the alarm sound?**

If the power fails, the pump and any alarm systems may not work because they both need electric power. However, most systems come with storage capacity for such events. During power outages, wastewater producers like dishwashers and washing machines won't work. Nevertheless, conserve water because the duration of an outage is unpredictable.

### **What happens to the old septic tank and leach drains?**

Some local councils may require that your old septic tank and leach drains be 'decommissioned' after you connect to the sewerage system. Contact your local council for further details.