

December 2003

## WELCOME!

Welcome to the inaugural edition of "Working with Wastewater."

The newsletter will be published **every three months** and include articles on matters relating to wastewater, new trends and products being introduced into South Australia and reports on current events and issues within the wastewater area.

We would also like input from our readers so if you would like to contribute anything to the newsletter, make a suggestion or request more information, please contact the editor at the email address below.

## Wastewater Seminar

The DHS seminar was held at the Rural City of Murray Bridge on 22-24 October 2003.

The seminar was well attended with a total of 70 delegates. Whilst a majority of attendees were from local government, the audience also included members of the EPA, SA Water and consulting engineers.

A great deal of positive feedback from all parties who attended has been received. It is planned to introduce this on a regular basis to allow council officers and practitioners in the wastewater area to update their knowledge, raise issues and problems and provide feedback to other colleagues on wastewater matters.

The seminar included sessions on greywater reuse, site and soil investigations, new trends in the wastewater area, operation and installation of existing systems and planning issues as well as a field trip occupying most of day two. Each presentation will soon be available on the web at: [www.dhs.sa.gov.au/pehs](http://www.dhs.sa.gov.au/pehs) - and accessible by Clicking on "Environmental Health" and then the headings under the "Wastewater Management" listing.

Participants at the conference were encouraged to ask questions which arose as a result of the presentations. These included a number of questions to Richard Atkinson (Consulting Engineer) with respect to borelogs and setback distances related to his presentation. There were questions on several other issues relating to the

current standard/legislation review, new developments and irrigation areas. The latter issue proved to raise a significant amount of discussion particularly with reference to recreation /open space areas. It is suggested that council environmental health officers contact their development officers and/or obtain legal advice on the issue of interpretation of recreation /open space area requirements as the issue is a complex one which is presently under discussion by a number of agencies.

The problems encountered with the information that needs to be provided in the "onsite wastewater systems application forms" were also raised. It was felt a "standard" application form should be developed and in order to facilitate this, we would ask all councils to submit any modified application forms they may be using or ideas they may have to the DHS for incorporation into a new form by January 12 2004.

## Update: Greywater Diverter

In September, the Wastewater Management Section (WWMS) faxed a circular to Councils regarding greywater diversion devices and subsurface disposal systems. In this circular, Councils were requested to indicate their willingness to approve the installation applications of the DHS nominated systems (within their jurisdiction) in accordance with requirements issued by the DHS.

The WWMS received 22 responses from Councils willing to approve installation applications. As a result, authorisation is being organised for these Councils.

Once this is complete, DHS will disseminate relevant information to assist Councils with installation approvals, together with the authorisation letters.

## New Products

It is planned that the present system of notifying councils of new products with specification sheets sent to councils via official circulars will be replaced by all information being available on our website. We will ask each manufacturer's agreement for that. Until that time, councils will continue to be notified by circulars, however this newsletter will provide updates on newly approved products or those under assessment.

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Details will shortly be circulated regarding the following products that have been approved by the DHS:

- ▶ Reo Drain Leach Drain Modules for soakage trenches
- ▶ Taylex 10 EP Aerobic wastewater treatment system and access riser
- ▶ Envirocycle Model 13 Riser shaft
- ▶ KD Gore and Co chemical toilet - up to 800 uses capacity
- ▶ Ecomax nutrient removal system, 6 to 10 EP (DHS installation approval required)

As part of their approval conditions, all new products require an inspection prior to information on them being circulated to councils and marketing in SA. Several products are still to be inspected prior to information circulated. These are the following products for which we are waiting for the manufacturers to contact us for an inspection:

- ▶ Everhard Industries 3900 L polymer septic tank
- ▶ Everhard Industries 450 L polymer pump sump
- ▶ Envirosep 8 EP aerobic wastewater treatment system
- ▶ Rota Loo Worm Farm Wastewater system 10 EP
- ▶ Greywatersaver Greywater Diverter for households (see above)

Several new products are currently being assessed by the DHS for SA approval.

These are as follows:

- ▶ Biolytix BF6 wastewater treatment system 10 EP
- ▶ Icon Industries 3300 L precast concrete septic tank
- ▶ Linpac Rotational Mouldings 3000 L polymer septic tank
- ▶ A and A Worm Farm wastewater system 8 EP

## Contact us

For any further information regarding newsletter content or to raise other issues/ provide feedback etc please contact us at the email address below or by telephone:

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