



ONSITE WASTEWATER REPORT

PROPOSED SUBDIVISION DEVELOPMENT AT 24 HORNS CROSSING ROAD, VACY

GSL Environmental

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Job Reference #: 145124

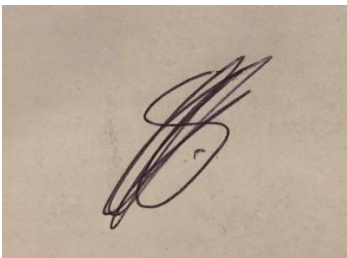
Date: 15th October 2024

Limitations

This report has been developed based on agreed requirements between the client and GSL Environmental as understood by GSL Environmental at the time of investigation. This report only applies to the subject scope of works undertaken at the subject site. Other interpretations should not be made, including changes of scope or application to other projects. The contents of this report are based on a professional appraisal of the conditions that existed onsite at the time of this investigation. Where a subsurface soil investigation has been undertaken the results are only applicable to the specific sampling locations and the depths undertaken. Because of natural geological variability and possible anthropogenic influences, the subsurface conditions reported can change abruptly. Such changes can also occur after the site investigation has been undertaken. The accuracy of the results provided in this assessment is limited by these possible variations along with limitations by budget constraints imposed by others and by inadequate site accessibility.

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1. Introduction

GSL Environmental has been commissioned by Alva Planning to assess the suitability of an on-site sewage management system for the proposed three allotment rural residential subdivision at 24 Horns Crossing Road, VACY NSW. This report will be submitted to Dungog Council in accordance with the relevant details in the 'Dungog Council Onsite Sewage DAF 2015'. Other guiding documents include,

- Australian Standard AS1547: 2012 "On-site Domestic Wastewater Management"
- Dept. Local Government 1998, On-site Sewage Management for Single Households
- Water NSW, "Designing and Installing Onsite Wastewater Systems", 2019

This assessment is required to show that treated wastewater generated by the proposed allotments from the subdivision can be sustainably managed on the site.

2. Site Description

The subject allotment is rectangular in shape and approximately 2.34 hectares in size. The site is very gently inclined and can be considered mid-slope waning landforms. The proposed EDAs have been located within very gently inclined mid slope landscapes. The closest significant water body, Shingle Splitter Creek flows approximately 1km to the east of the site. There are no waterbodies onsite.

According to the Port Stephens 1:100 000 Soil Map the proposed dispersal areas onsite are underlain by "Brecon" residual soils. The Brecon Soil Landscape areas generally consist of undulating rises to low hills on Carboniferous sediments and ignimbrites of the Paterson Mountains and Clarencetown Hills regions. Slope gradients are generally between 2 - 10%. Underlying soils mostly consist of brown sandy loams traversing to brown clays.

The proposal is for a three lot rural residential subdivision, proposed plans in Appendix B. As at subdivision stage the new allotments have been designed for 5 bedroom residences. The existing residence is a four habitable room residence and is currently serviced by a septic followed by absorption. To be compliant to current standards the existing dwelling septic system is to be upgraded per below recommendations. Bedroom density on the future dwellings at DA stage may be altered subject to a site specific onsite wastewater assessment.



Figure 1: Subject Site, care of six maps showing property boundaries and associated landmarks.

3. Site Information

Site Address: 24 Horns Crossing Road, VACY

Water Supply: Tank

Proposed Development: Three lot rural residential subdivision

Equivalent Population: Up to 8 persons/day – 5 habitable room residence – Proposed Allotments
Up to 7 persons/day – 4 habitable room residence – Existing dwelling

Wastewater Flow Allowance: 120L per person per day

Design Flowrate: 960L per day – Proposed Allotment
840L per day – Existing dwelling

Proposed Effluent Dispersal Type: Sub-Surface Drip

System Design: Aerated wastewater treatment systems

Most restrictive Soil Texture: brown clays

Minimum Dispersal Area: 518m² – proposed allotment
453m² – existing dwelling

Buffer Distances: All required buffer distances can be achieved without any variation required.

4. Physical Site Assessment

A site inspection was undertaken on the 3rd October 2024. The fieldwork included an assessment of the site's physical parameters as well as hand excavation of boreholes to determine the underlying soil structures. This was undertaken to delineate the most suitable location for the proposed dispersal area. Potential onsite limitations have been investigated and are discussed below.

4.1 Landform

Varying landforms pose differing potential limitations to an effluent dispersal area. Risk of run-on and runoff may be enhanced dependent on the site's landform.

The proposed EDAs have been located within very gently inclined mid slope landscapes.

Limitation: **LOW**

4.2 Slope Gradient

Excessive slope within an EDA can potentially lead to effluent leaching away from the EDA.

The proposed EDAs have been located within very gently inclined mid slope landscapes. The EDAs have slope gradients between 3 – 6%.

Limitation: **LOW**

4.3 Exposure

Providing the EDA with maximum wind and sun exposure is preferable. This will enhance the evapotranspiration properties of the EDA and should add to the life of the EDA.

The proposed EDAs are within areas of very high exposure.

Limitation: **LOW**

4.4 Flood Potential

The proposed AWTS and dispersal area will be located above the council given flood planning levels. Some areas onsite are considered flood prone lands. As such the proposed EDAs are not to be in these locations. Subsurface irrigation is recommended to minimise any spray drift from leaching from the EDA into levels below the flood planning levels.

The proposed EDAs are outside of any flood planning levels and above the 1:20 Flood level.

Limitation: **LOW**

4.5 Vegetation

All effluent dispersal areas should be covered with vegetation or mulch-based covers. A vegetated EDA provides the possibility of that area in enhancing nutrient uptake and evapotranspiration. Low vegetation cover can cause effluent runoff and low nutrient and evapotranspiration uptake rates.

The proposed EDAS are located within areas of dense grassland vegetation coverage. Future EDAs will need to be regularly mowed and maintained.

Limitation: **LOW**

4.6 Stormwater Run-on

Stormwater runoff through the EDA has the potential to transport effluent away from the EDA to more sensitive receivers.

There were no visible signs of stormwater entering the proposed EDAs. The proposed EDAs have been located within very gently inclined mid slope landscapes. The EDAs have slope gradients between 3 – 6%.

Limitation: **LOW**

4.7 Site Drainage

Damp and wet areas should be avoided for EDAs. These areas indicate seepage of waters and could become a transport option for effluent if placed in these areas.

Site appears to be well drained with semi-permeable soils. No visible signs of wet/damp areas in the proposed EDA. The soil profile did not show evidence of water logging

Limitation: **LOW**

4.8 Erosion Potential

Areas of visible soil movement and erosion should be avoided.

No visible signs of erosion within the EDA. Proposed EDA areas are densely vegetated and very gently inclined.

Limitation: **LOW**

4.9 Evidence of Fill

No evidence of fill was seen onsite or in the excavated boreholes. Soil logs are consistent of the description for underlying soils within the Brecon Soil Areas.

Limitation: **LOW**

4.10 Groundwater Depth

Groundwater not observed in bore holes.

Limitation: **LOW**

4.11 Surface Rock

No surface boulders or rock outcrops were observed within the proposed EDAs. Whilst depth was found in boreholes excavated within the proposed EDA, if during installation a “floater” is found it is to be removed from the proposed EDA.

Limitation: **LOW**

4.12 Groundwater Bores

A search of Water’s all groundwater mapping was undertaken to determine the proximity of any bores to the EDAs. There are no domestic bores within 250m of the proposed EDAs.

Limitation: **LOW**

4.13 Watercourse Proximity

The closest significant water body, Shingle Splitter Creek flows approximately 1km to the east of the site. There are no waterbodies onsite. Recommended setbacks to water bodies from the EDAs will be met.

This report proposes that subsurface irrigation be installed as the EDA on the subject site. Treatment is to be provided via a NSW Health accredited AWTs. The secondary effluent is further treated during

the subsurface absorption/transpiration processes. These measures will help the effluent to not leach from the proposed EDA.

Limitation: **LOW**

4.14 Stock Present

Stock can cause damage to irrigation systems and must be kept out of the EDA by fencing or other physical barrier.

4.15 Buffer Distances

All buffer distances in accordance within AS 1547:2012 will be achieved.

Limitation: **LOW**

Buffer distances from the EDA are required to minimise risk to public health, maintain public amenity and protect sensitive environments. Table below from 'Dungog Council Onsite Sewage DAF'.

Table 6-8 Minimum Buffer Distances for On-site System Land Application Systems

System / Land Application Type	Limiting Factor	Minimum Buffer Distance (m)
All Land Application Systems	Permanent surface waters such as: Lakes, rivers, creeks and streams	➤ 100m
	Domestic groundwater wells and bores	➤ 250m
	Other waters such as: Farm dams, intermittent waterways and drainage channels	➤ 40m
	Retaining wall, embankments, escarpments and cuttings.	➤ 15
Surface Spray Irrigation (Standard Spray Heads)	Driveways and property boundaries	➤ 6m if area up gradient ➤ 3m if area down gradient
	Dwellings and buildings	➤ 15m
	Paths and walkways	➤ 3m
	Swimming pools	➤ 6m
	Retaining wall, embankments, escarpments and cuttings.	➤ 12m if area up gradient ➤ 3m if down gradient
Surface Drip and Trickle Irrigation	Dwellings and buildings, swimming pools, property boundaries and driveways. Retaining wall, embankments, escarpments and cuttings.	➤ 6m if area up gradient ➤ 3m if area down gradient
Subsurface Irrigation	Dwellings and buildings, swimming pools, property boundaries and driveways Retaining wall, embankments, escarpments and cuttings.	➤ 6m if area up gradient ¹ ➤ 3m if area down gradient ¹
	Depth to Hardpan or Bedrock	➤ 0.6m below level of pipework ²
Absorption System	Property boundary Retaining wall, embankments, escarpments and cuttings.	➤ 12m if area up gradient ➤ 6m if area down gradient
	Dwellings and buildings, swimming pools and driveways	➤ 6m if area up gradient ➤ 3m if area down gradient
	Depth to Hardpan or Bedrock	➤ 0.6m below base of trench/bed

Permanent Watercourse: Any river, creek, stream or chain of ponds, whether artificially modified or not, in which water usually flows, either continuously or intermittently, in a defined bed or channel

Intermittent Watercourse: A low point with no or little defined bed or channel that carries water during rainfall events, but dries out quickly when rainfall stops. A gully or incised drainage depression is considered to be an intermittent watercourse.



Figure 2: Proposed EDA onsite



Figure 3: Proposed EDA onsite



Figure 4: Proposed EDA onsite

5. Onsite Soil Assessment

During the site inspection 6 boreholes were hand excavated with a 100mm auger within the proposed EDAs. 2 boreholes within each proposed EDA. The following are the results from the excavation. The auger holes were used to determine the underlying soil properties. No groundwater was observed in the excavated boreholes.

According to the Port Stephens 1:100 000 Soil Map the proposed dispersal areas onsite are underlain by “Brecon” residual soils. The Brecon Soil Landscape areas generally consist of undulating rises to low hills on Carboniferous sediments and ignimbrites of the Paterson Mountains and Clarencetown Hills regions. Slope gradients are generally between 2 - 10%. Underlying soils mostly consist of brown sandy loams traversing to brown clays.

Borehole 1

0 – 350mm - brown sandy loams,
350 – 1000mm – brown clays,



Figure 5: Borehole 1

Borehole 2

0 – 300mm - brown sandy loams,
300 – 1000mm – brown clays,

Borehole 3

0 – 250mm - brown earthy sandy loams,
250 – 1000mm – brown clays,



Figure 6: Borehole 3

Borehole 4

0 – 300mm - brown earthy sandy loams,
300 – 1000mm – brown clays,

Borehole 5

0 – 350mm - brown earthy sandy loams,
350 – 1000mm – brown clays,



Figure 7: Borehole 5

Borehole 6

0 – 300mm - brown earthy sandy loams,
300 – 1000mm – brown clays,

Ph and EC

An insitu probe, tested the soil layers for pH and EC, results as below.

Borehole 1

Depth	pH	EC _e (μS/cm)
0 – 350mm	6.2	544
350 – 1000mm	5.9	919

Borehole 2

Depth	pH	EC _e (μS/cm)
0 – 300mm	6.1	623
300 – 1000mm	5.8	1287

Borehole 3

Depth	pH	EC _e (μS/cm)
0 – 250mm	6.3	493
250 – 1000mm	5.8	618

Borehole 4

Depth	pH	EC _e (μS/cm)
0 – 300mm	6.0	399
300 – 1000mm	5.6	1187

Borehole 5

Depth	pH	EC _e (μS/cm)
0 – 350mm	6.1	442
350 – 1000mm	5.7	814

Borehole 6

Depth	pH	EC _e (μS/cm)
0 – 300mm	5.9	747
300 – 1000mm	5.8	1387

The pH of a soil influences its ability to supply nutrients to vegetation. If the soil is too acidic vegetative growth is inhibited. The electrical conductivity of the soil relates to the amount of salts present. A high salt concentration inhibits vegetative growth.

The electrical conductivity of the soils is less than 4 dS/m. This will not inhibit vegetative growth. The pH of the soil is between 5.6 and 6.3. A regular application of lime and gypsum is recommended to maintain healthy vegetation growth.

Three samples were sent to ALS Australia, a NATA accredited laboratory to determine the insitu reliability as well as the testing of further parameters. Results below and in appendix.

The samples tested at the laboratory were from

- borehole 1, 0-350mm – TP1
- borehole 3, 0-250mm – TP3
- borehole 5, 0-350mm – TP5

Coarse fragments

Coarse fragments are those over 2 mm in diameter. They can pose limitations to vegetative growth by lowering the soil's ability to supply water and nutrients.

<2% of coarse fragments within the boreholes. There were some peds which could be crushed easily using fingers.

Limitation: **LOW**

Exchangeable Sodium Percentage

The exchangeable sodium percentage (ESP) measures the proportion of cation exchange sites occupied by sodium. Soils are considered sodic when the ESP is greater than 6, and highly sodic when the ESP is greater than 15.

TP1 - ESP 6.1 %, suggesting sodic soils within this area

TP3 – ESP 6.3 %, suggesting sodic soils within this area

TP5 - ESP 6.0 %, suggesting sodic soils within this area

Lime 0.5kg/m² – Subject site calculation = A minimum 227kg across the proposed 453m² EDAs.

Gypsum 0.5kg/m² – Subject site calculation = A Minimum 227kg across the proposed 453m² EDAs.

Lime 0.5kg/m² – Subject site calculation = A minimum 259kg across the proposed 518m² EDAs.

Gypsum 0.5kg/m² – Subject site calculation = A Minimum 259kg across the proposed 518m² EDAs.

Cation Exchange Capacity

Cation exchange capacity (CEC) is a measure of the soil's ability to hold positively charged ions. It is a very important soil property influencing soil structure stability, nutrient availability, soil pH and the soil's reaction to fertilisers and other ameliorants. A figure above 10 meq/100g is preferred for plant production. You can improve CEC in weathered soils by adding lime and raising the pH.

TP1 - CEC = 12.3 meq/100g

TP3 - CEC = 14.0 meq/100g

TP5 - CEC = 15.7 meq/100g

Once EDA is installed an annual maintenance application rate of the following is to be implemented.

Lime 0.5kg/m² – Subject site calculation = A minimum 227kg across the proposed 453m² EDAs.

Gypsum 0.5kg/m² – Subject site calculation = A Minimum 227kg across the proposed 453m² EDAs.

Lime 0.5kg/m² – Subject site calculation = A minimum 259kg across the proposed 518m² EDAs.

Gypsum 0.5kg/m² – Subject site calculation = A Minimum 259kg across the proposed 518m² EDAs.

Phosphorus Sorption Index

The capacity of a soil to adsorb phosphorus is expressed as its phosphorus sorption capacity.

TP1 P sorb = 1160mg P sorbed/kg – laboratory

TP3 P sorb = 1090mg P sorbed/kg - laboratory

TP5 P sorb = 1290mg P sorbed/kg - laboratory

P sorb = 400mg P sorbed/kg – given figure within literature for clay loam soils

For nutrient balance calculations the lesser of value above is to be utilized

Emerson Aggregate Test

The combination of slaking and dispersion caused a reduction in macroporosity and, therefore, lower infiltration rates and hydraulic conductivities as well as an increase in soil strength and other undesirable soil physical properties. This test classifies the behavior of soil aggregates, when immersed, on their coherence in water. This test was completed inhouse. Soils are divided into seven classes on the basis of their coherence in water, with one further class being distinguished by the presence of calcium-rich minerals.

EAT Class = 2(2). Some slight dispersion potential within underlying soils onsite.

6. System Design/Selection

For the subject site there are a number of methods to treat the wastewater generated onsite. A general septic followed by an absorption pit/trench should not be recommended for the subject site. Effluent should be treated to a secondary level followed by subsurface dispersal. A number of dispersal options could be considered, subsurface irrigation, pressure dosed absorption bed and mounds. Subsurface irrigation was the dispersal method recommended and designed. Subsurface irrigation reduces the chance of human contact with the effluent and significantly reduces any potential public health risk.

Proposed Treatment Node

The proposal is to install a NSW Health Accredited AWTS system onsite for the new proposed allotments. An Aerated Wastewater Treatment System (AWTS) uses aerobic treatment to promote oxidation and microbiological consumption of organic matter by bacteria through facilitated biological processes.

Proposed Effluent Dispersal

The proposal is to install subsurface irrigation onsite. Subsurface irrigation reduces the chance of human contact with the effluent and significantly reduces any potential public health risk. By placing the effluent in the root zone of plants or grasses, beneficial reuse of both the hydraulic and nutrient components of the effluent is maximised, offering enhanced environmental benefits. There are also potential amenity benefits offered by subsurface irrigation, such as less chance of surface saturation and effluent runoff.

Hydraulic Sizing

As per section 6.4.3 of “Dungog Council Onsite Sewage DAF 2015’ the hydraulic sizing was calculated using the following formula.

$$LAA = q / (DLR - CAF)$$

$$LAA = EDA$$

Q = Design Daily Loading Rate (L/day)

DLR = Design Loading Rate (mm/day)

CAF = Climate Adjustment Factor (mm/day)

Future Dwellings on Proposed Allotments

$$LAA = 960 / (2 - 0)$$

$$LAA = 480m^2$$

Annual Nutrient Balance

Minimum Area Required for Nitrogen Uptake: 467m²

Minimum Area Required for Phosphorus Uptake: 518m²

As such a minimum 518m² of subsurface irrigation is to be installed onsite for proposed allotments.

Existing Dwelling Allotment

$$LAA = 840 / (2 - 0)$$

$$LAA = 420m^2$$

Annual Nutrient Balance

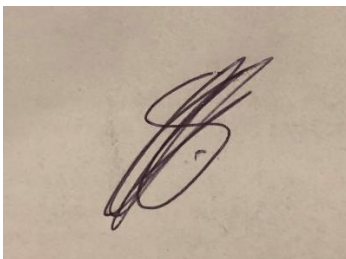
Minimum Area Required for Nitrogen Uptake: 409m²

Minimum Area Required for Phosphorus Uptake: 453m²

As such a minimum 453m² of subsurface irrigation is to be installed onsite for existing dwelling allotment.

7. Recommendations

- Installation of NSW Health Accredited AWTS system onsite to treat the calculated flowrate of 960L/day for the future dwellings on proposed allotments.
- Installation of subsurface effluent dispersal field of a minimum 518m² for future dwellings on proposed allotments.
- Installation of NSW Health Accredited AWTS system onsite to treat the calculated flowrate of 840L/day for the existing dwelling on proposed allotment.
- Installation of subsurface effluent dispersal field of a minimum 453m² for the existing dwelling on proposed allotment
- Stock must be kept out of the EDAs by fencing or other physical barrier.
- Decommission existing septic currently servicing dwelling onsite.
- This design assumes at least three-star rated plumbing fixtures are used in any new development.

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Appendix A – Site Plans



Appendix B – Proposed Plans



Appendix C – Operation and Maintenance Guideline

ON-SITE SEWAGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

If you live in or rent a house that is not connected to the main sewer then chances are that your yard contains an on-site sewage management system. If this is the case then you have a special responsibility to ensure that it is working as well as it can.

The aim of this pamphlet is to introduce you to some of the most popular types of on-site sewage management systems and provide some general information to help you maintain your system effectively. You should find out what type of system you have and how it works.

More information can be obtained from the pamphlets:

Your Septic System
Your Aerated Wastewater Treatment System
Your Composting Toilet
Your Land Application Area

You can get a copy of these pamphlets from your local council or the address marked on the back of this pamphlet.

It is important to keep in mind that maintenance needs to be performed properly and regularly. Poorly maintained on-site sewage management systems can significantly affect you and your family's health as well as the local environment.

What is an on-site sewage management system?

A domestic on-site sewage management system is made up of various components which - if properly designed, installed and maintained - allow the treatment and utilisation of wastewater from a house, completely within the boundary of the property.

Wastewater may be blackwater (toilet waste), or greywater (water from showers, sinks, and washing machines), or a combination of both.

Partial on-site systems - eg. pump out and common effluent systems (CES) - also exist. These usually involve the preliminary on-site treatment of wastewater in a septic tank, followed by collection and transport of the treated wastewater to an off-site management facility. Pump out systems use road tankers to transport the effluent, and CES use a network of small diameter pipes.

How does an on-site sewage management system work?

For complete on-site systems there are two main processes:

1. treatment of wastewater to a certain standard
2. its application to a dedicated area of land.

The type of application permitted depends on the quality of treatment, although you should try to avoid contact with all treated and untreated wastewater, and thoroughly wash affected areas if contact does occur.

Treatment and application can be carried out using various methods:

Septic Tank

Septic tanks treat both greywater and blackwater, but they provide only limited treatment through the settling of solids and the flotation of fats and greases. Bacteria in the tank break down the solids over a period of time. Wastewater that has been treated in a septic tank can only be applied to land through a covered soil absorption system, as the effluent is still too contaminated for above ground or near surface irrigation.

AWTS

Aerated wastewater treatment systems (AWTS) treat all household wastewater and have several treatment compartments. The first is like a septic tank, but in the second compartment air is mixed with the wastewater to assist bacteria to break down solids. A third compartment allows settling of more solids and a final chlorination contact chamber allows disinfection. Some AWTS are constructed with all the compartments inside a single tank. The effluent produced may be surface or sub-surface irrigated in a dedicated area.

Composting Toilets

Composting toilets collect and treat toilet waste only. Water from the shower, sinks and the washing machine needs to be treated separately (for example in a septic tank or AWTS as above). The compost produced by a composting toilet has special requirements but is usually buried on-site.

These are just some of the treatment and application methods available, and there are many other types such as sand filter beds, wetlands, and amended earth mounds. Your local council or the NSW Department of Health have more information on these systems if you need it.

Regulations and recommendations

The NSW Department of Health determines the design and structural requirements for treatment systems for single households. Local councils are primarily responsible for approving the installation of smaller domestic septic tank systems, composting toilets and AWTSs in their area, and are also responsible for approving land application areas. The NSW Environment Protection Authority approves larger systems.

The design and installation of on-site sewage management systems, including plumbing and drainage, should only be carried out by suitably qualified or experienced people. Care is needed to ensure correct sizing of the treatment system and application area.

Heavy fines may be imposed under the Clean Waters Act if wastewater is not managed properly.

Keeping your on-site sewage management system operating well

What you put down your drains and toilets has a lot to do with how well your system performs. Maintenance of your sewage management system also needs to be done well and on-time. The following is a guide to the types of things you should and should not do with your system.

DO

- ✓ Learn how your sewage management system works and its operational and maintenance requirements.
- ✓ Learn the location and layout of your sewage management system.
- ✓ Have your AWTS (if installed) inspected and serviced four times per year by an approved contractor. Other systems should be inspected at least once every year. Assessment should be applicable to the system design.
- ✓ Keep a record of desludgings, inspections, and other maintenance.
- ✓ Have your septic tank or AWTS deslugged every three years to prevent sludge build up, which may 'clog' the pipes.
- ✓ Conserve water. Conservative water use around the house will reduce the amount of wastewater which is produced and needs to be treated.
- ✓ Discuss with your local council the adequacy of your existing sewage management system if you are considering house extensions for increased occupancy.

DON'T

- ✗ Don't let children or pets play on land application areas.
- ✗ Don't water fruit and vegetables with effluent.
- ✗ Don't extract untreated groundwater for cooking and drinking.
- ✗ Don't put large quantities of bleaches, disinfectants, whiteners, nappy soakers and spot removers into your system via the sink, washing machine or toilet.
- ✗ Don't allow any foreign materials such as nappies, sanitary napkins, condoms and other hygiene products to enter the system.
- ✗ Don't put fats and oils down the drain and keep food waste out of your system.
- ✗ Don't install or use a garbage grinder or spa bath if your system is not designed for it.

Reducing water usage

Reducing water usage will lessen the likelihood of problems such as overloading with your septic system. Overloading may result in wastewater backing up into your house, contamination of your yard with improperly treated effluent, and effluent from your system contaminating groundwater or a nearby waterway.

Your sewage management system is also unable to cope with large volumes of water such as several showers or loads of washing over a short period of time. You should try to avoid these 'shock loads' by ensuring water use is spread more evenly throughout the day and week.

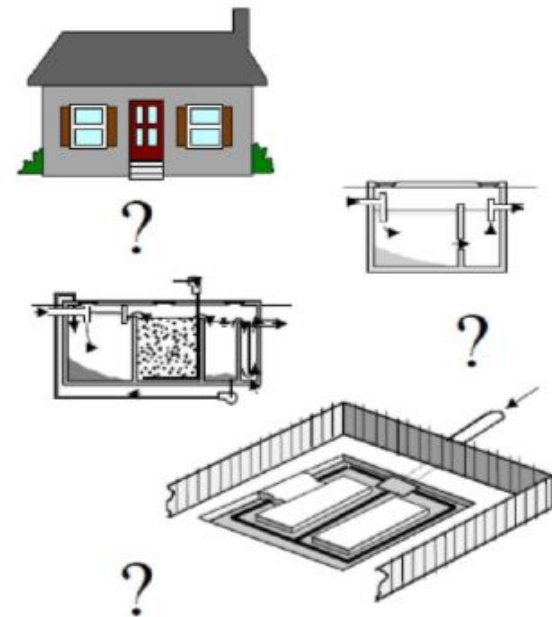
HELP PROTECT YOUR HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Poorly maintained sewage management systems are a serious source of water pollution and may present health risks, cause odours and attract vermin and insects.

By looking after your management system you can do your part in helping to protect the environment and the health of you and your community.

For more information please contact:

Managing Wastewater In Your Backyard



Aerated Wastewater Treatment Systems (AWTS)

In unsewered areas, the proper treatment and utilisation of household wastewater on-site is critical in preserving the health of the public and the environment. AWTS have been developed as a way of achieving this.

What is an AWTS?

An AWTS is a purpose built system used for the treatment of sewage and liquid wastes from a single household or multiple dwellings.

It consists of a series of treatment chambers combined with an irrigation system. An AWTS enables people living in unsewered areas to treat and utilise their wastewater.

How does an AWTS work?

Wastewater from a household is treated in stages in several separate chambers. The first chamber is similar to a conventional septic tank. The wastewater enters the chamber where the solids settle to the bottom and are retained in the tank forming a sludge layer. Scum collects at the top, and the partially clarified wastewater flows into a second chamber. Here the wastewater is mixed with air

to assist bacteria to further treat it. A third chamber allows additional clarification through the settling of solids, which are returned for further treatment to either the septic chamber (as shown) or to the aeration chamber. The clarified effluent is disinfected in another chamber (usually by chlorination) before irrigation can take place.

Bacteria in the first chamber break down the solid matter in the sludge and scum layers. Material that cannot be fully broken down gradually builds up in the chamber and must be pumped out periodically.

Regulations and recommendations

Local councils are primarily responsible for approving the smaller, domestic AWTSs in their area. The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) approves larger units, whilst the NSW Department of Health determines the design and structural requirements for all AWTSs.

At present AWTSs need to be serviced quarterly by an approved contractor at a cost to the owner. Local councils should also maintain a register of the servicing of each system within their area.

AWTSs should be fitted with an alarm having visual and audible components to indicate mechanical and electrical equipment malfunctions. The alarm should provide a signal adjacent to the alarm and at a relevant position inside the house. The alarm should incorporate a warning lamp which may only be reset by the service agent.

Maintaining your AWTS

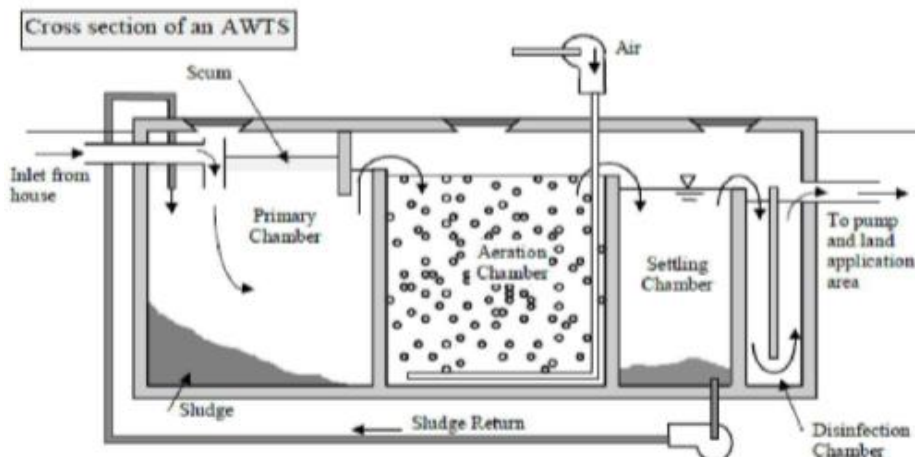
The effectiveness of the system will, in part, depend on how it is used and maintained. The following is a guide on good maintenance procedures that you should follow:

DO

- ✓ Have your AWTS inspected and serviced four times per year by an approved contractor. Assessment should be applicable to the system design.
- ✓ Have your system service include assessment of sludge and scum levels in all tanks, and performance of irrigation areas.
- ✓ Have all your tanks deslugged at least every three years.
- ✓ Have your disinfection chamber inspected and tested quarterly to ensure correct disinfectant levels.
- ✓ Have your grease trap (if installed) cleaned out at least every two months.
- ✓ Keep a record of pumping, inspections, and other maintenance.
- ✓ Learn the location and layout of your AWTS and land application area.
- ✓ Use biodegradable liquid detergents such as concentrates with low sodium and phosphorous levels.
- ✓ Conserve water.

DON'T

- ✗ Don't put bleaches, disinfectants, whiteners, nappy soakers and spot removers in large quantities into your AWTS via the sink, washing machine or toilet.
- ✗ Don't allow any foreign materials such as nappies, sanitary napkins, condoms and other hygiene products to enter the system.
- ✗ Don't use more than the recommended amounts of detergents.
- ✗ Don't put fats and oils down the drain and keep food waste out of your system.
- ✗ Don't switch off power to the AWTS, even if you are going on holidays



Reducing water usage

Reducing water usage will lessen the likelihood of problems such as overloading with your AWTs. Overloading may result in wastewater backing up into your house, contamination of your yard with improperly treated effluent, and effluent from your system entering a nearby river, creek or dam.

Conservative water use around the house will reduce the amount of wastewater which is produced and needs to be treated.

Your AWTs is also unable to cope with large volumes of water such as several showers or loads of washing over a short period of time. You should try to avoid these 'shock loads' by ensuring water use is spread more evenly throughout the day and week.

Warning signs

You can look out for a few warning signs that signal to you that there are troubles with your AWTs. Ensure that these problems are attended to immediately to protect your health and the environment.

Look out for the following warning signs:

- ⚠ Water that drains too slowly.
- ⚠ Drain pipes that gurgle or make noises when air bubbles are forced back through the system.
- ⚠ Sewage smells, this indicates a serious problem.
- ⚠ Water backing up into your sink which may indicate that your system is already failing.
- ⚠ Wastewater pooling over the land application area.
- ⚠ Black coloured effluent in the aerated tank.
- ⚠ Excess noise from the blower or pumping equipment.
- ⚠ Poor vegetation growth in irrigated area.

Odour problems from a vent on the AWTs can be a result of slow or inadequate breakdown of solids. Call a technician to service the system.

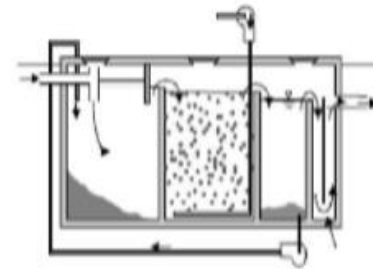
HELP PROTECT YOUR HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Poorly maintained AWTs are a serious source of water pollution and may present health risks, cause odours and attract vermin and insects.

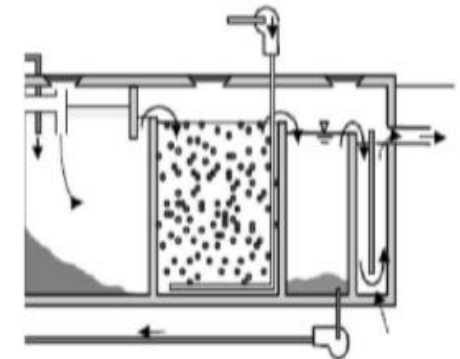
By looking after your treatment system you can do your part in helping to protect the environment and the health of you and your family.

If you would like more information please contact:

Your Aerated Wastewater Treatment System



Your Aerated Wastewater Treatment System



- ⚠ Black coloured effluent in the aerated tank.
- ⚠ Excess noise from the blower or pumping equipment.
- ⚠ Poor vegetation growth in irrigated area.

LAND APPLICATION AREAS

The reuse of domestic wastewater on-site can be an economical and environmentally sound use of resources.

What are land application areas?

These are areas that allow treated domestic wastewater to be managed entirely on-site.

The area must be able to utilise the wastewater and treat any organic matter and wastes it may contain. The wastewater is rich in nutrients, and can provide excellent nourishment for flower gardens, lawns, certain shrubs and trees. The vegetation should be suitably tolerant of high water and nutrient loads.

How does a land application area work?

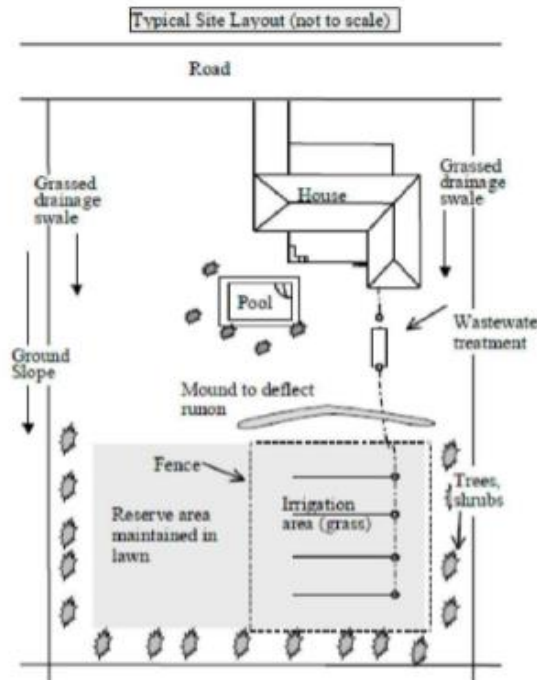
Treated wastewater applied to a land application area may be utilised or simply disposed, depending on the type of application system that is used. The application of the wastewater can be through a soil absorption system (based on disposal) or through an irrigation system (based on utilisation).

Soil absorption systems do not require highly treated effluent, and wastewater treated by a septic tank is reasonable as the solids content in the effluent has been reduced. Absorption systems release the effluent into the soil at a depth that cannot be reached by the roots of most small shrubs and grasses. They rely mainly on the processes of soil treatment and then transmission to the water table, with minimal evaporation and up-take by plants. **These systems are not recommended in sensitive areas as they may lead to contamination of surface water and groundwater.**

Irrigation systems may be classed as either subsurface or surface irrigation. If an irrigation system is to be used, wastewater needs to be pre-treated to at least the quality produced by an aerated wastewater treatment system (AWTS).

Subsurface irrigation requires highly treated effluent that is introduced into the soil close to the surface. The effluent is utilised mainly by plants and evaporation.

Surface irrigation requires highly treated effluent that has undergone aeration and disinfection treatments, so as to reduce the possibility of bacteria and virus contamination.



The effluent is then applied to the land area through a series of drip, trickle, or spray points which are designed to eliminate airborne drift and run-off into neighbouring properties.

There are some public health and environmental concerns about surface irrigation. There is the risk of contact with treated effluent and the potential for surface run-off. Given these problems, subsurface irrigation is arguably the safest, most efficient and effective method of effluent utilisation.

Regulations and recommendations

The design and installation of land application areas should only be carried out by suitably qualified or experienced people, and only after a site and soil evaluation is done by a soil scientist. Care should be

taken to ensure correct buffer distances are left between the application area and bores, waterways, buildings, and neighbouring properties.

Heavy fines may be imposed under the Clean Waters Act if effluent is managed improperly.

At least two warning signs should be installed along the boundary of a land application area. The signs should comprise of 20mm high Series C lettering in black or white on a green background with the words:

**RECLAIMED EFFLUENT
NOT FOR DRINKING
AVOID CONTACT**

Depending on the requirements of your local council, wet weather storage and soil moisture sensors may need to be installed to ensure that effluent is only irrigated when the soil is not saturated.

Regular checks should be undertaken of any mechanical equipment to ensure that it is operating correctly. Local councils may require periodic analysis of soil or groundwater characteristics.

Humans and animals should be excluded from land application areas during and immediately after the application of treated wastewater. The longer the period of exclusion from an area, the lower the risk to public health.

The householder is required to enter into a service contract with the installation company, its agent or the manufacturer of their sewage management system, this will ensure that the system operates efficiently.

Location of the application area

Treated wastewater has the potential to have negative impacts on public health and the environment. For this reason the application area must be located in accordance with the results of a site evaluation, and approved landscaping must be completed prior to occupation of the building. Sandy soil and clayey soils may present special problems.

The system must allow even distribution of treated wastewater over the land application area.

Maintaining your land application area

The effectiveness of the application area is governed by the activities of the owner.

DO

- ✓ Construct and maintain diversion drains around the top side of the application area to divert surface water.
- ✓ Ensure that your application area is kept level by filling any depressions with good quality top soil (not clay).
- ✓ Keep the grass regularly mowed and plant small trees around the perimeter to aid absorption and transpiration of the effluent.
- ✓ Ensure that any run off from the roof, driveway and other impermeable surfaces is directed away from the application area.
- ✓ Fence irrigation areas.
- ✓ Ensure appropriate warning signs are visible at all times in the vicinity of a spray irrigation area.
- ✓ Have your irrigation system checked by the service agent when they are carrying out service on the treatment system.

DON'T

- ✗ Don't erect any structures, construct paths, graze animals or drive over the land application area.
- ✗ Don't plant large trees that shade the land application area, as the area needs sunlight to aid in the evaporation and transpiration of the effluent.
- ✗ Don't plant trees or shrubs near or on house drains.
- ✗ Don't alter stormwater lines to discharge into or near the land application area.
- ✗ Don't flood the land application area through the use of hoses or sprinklers.
- ✗ Don't let children or pets play on land application areas.
- ✗ Don't water fruit and vegetables with the effluent.
- ✗ Don't extract untreated groundwater for potable use.

Warning signs

Regular visual checking of the system will ensure that problems are located and fixed early.

The visual signs of system failure include:

- ⚠ surface ponding and run-off of treated wastewater
- ⚠ soil quality deterioration
- ⚠ poor vegetation growth
- ⚠ unusual odours

Volume of water

Land application areas and systems for on-site application are designed and constructed in anticipation of the volume of waste to be discharged. Uncontrolled use of water may lead to poorly treated effluent being released from the system.

If the land application area is waterlogged and soggy the following are possible reasons:

- A Overloading the treatment system with wastewater.
- A The clogging of the trench with solids not trapped by the septic tank. The tank may require desludging.
- A The application area has been poorly designed.
- A Stormwater is running onto the area.

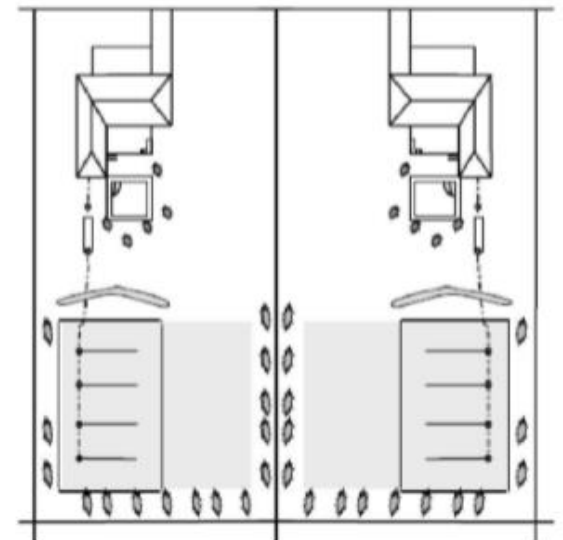
HELP PROTECT YOUR HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Poorly maintained land application areas are a serious source of water pollution and may present health risks, cause odours and attract vermin and insects.

By looking after your sewage management system you can do your part in helping to protect the environment and the health of you and your family.

For more information please contact:

Your Land Application Area



Appendix D – Laboratory Results



CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS

Work Order : **EW2404595**

Client : **GSL Environmental**

Contact : Simon Doberer

Address : 71 Moona Creek Road
Vincentia

Telephone : ----

Project : Horns Crossing Road, VACY

Order number : 145124

C-O-C number : ----

Sampler : Client - S Doberer

Site : ----

Quote number : EW23GSLENV0001

No. of samples received : 3

No. of samples analysed : 3

Page : 1 of 3

Laboratory : Environmental Division NSW South Coast

Contact : Mechelle Sahyoun

Address : 1/19 Ralph Black Dr, North Wollongong 2500 NSW Australia

Telephone : 02 42253125

Date Samples Received : 03-Oct-2024 17:00

Date Analysis Commenced : 04-Oct-2024

Issue Date : 14-Oct-2024 13:06



Accreditation No. 825
Accredited for compliance with
ISO/IEC 17025 - Testing

This report supersedes any previous report(s) with this reference. Results apply to the sample(s) as submitted, unless the sampling was conducted by ALS. This document shall not be reproduced, except in full.

This Certificate of Analysis contains the following information:

- General Comments
- Analytical Results

Additional information pertinent to this report will be found in the following separate attachments: Quality Control Report, QA/QC Compliance Assessment to assist with Quality Review and Sample Receipt Notification.

Signatories

This document has been electronically signed by the authorized signatories below. Electronic signing is carried out in compliance with procedures specified in 21 CFR Part 11.

Signatories

Position

Accreditation Category

Ankit Joshi

Senior Chemist - Inorganics

Sydney Inorganics, Smithfield, NSW

Wisam Marassa

Inorganics Coordinator

Sydney Inorganics, Smithfield, NSW



General Comments

The analytical procedures used by ALS have been developed from established internationally recognised procedures such as those published by the USEPA, APHA, AS and NEPM. In house developed procedures are fully validated and are often at the client request.

Where moisture determination has been performed, results are reported on a dry weight basis.

Where a reported less than (<) result is higher than the LOR, this may be due to primary sample extract/digestate dilution and/or insufficient sample for analysis.

Where the LOR of a reported result differs from standard LOR, this may be due to high moisture content, insufficient sample (reduced weight employed) or matrix interference.

When sampling time information is not provided by the client, sampling dates are shown without a time component. In these instances, the time component has been assumed by the laboratory for processing purposes.

Where a result is required to meet compliance limits the associated uncertainty must be considered. Refer to the ALS Contract for details.

Key : CAS Number = CAS registry number from database maintained by Chemical Abstracts Services. The Chemical Abstracts Service is a division of the American Chemical Society.
 LOR = Limit of reporting
 ^ = This result is computed from individual analyte detections at or above the level of reporting
 ø = ALS is not NATA accredited for these tests.
 ~ = Indicates an estimated value.

- ED007 and ED008: When Exchangeable Al is reported from these methods, it should be noted that Rayment & Lyons (2011) suggests Exchange Acidity by 1M KCl - Method 15G1 (ED005) is a more suitable method for the determination of exchange acidity (H⁺ + Al³⁺).

Analytical Results

Sub-Matrix: SOIL
 (Matrix: SOIL)

Sample ID

				TP1	TP3	TP5	----	----
Sampling date / time				03-Oct-2024 00:00	03-Oct-2024 00:00	03-Oct-2024 00:00	----	----
Compound	CAS Number	LOR	Unit	EW2404595-001	EW2404595-002	EW2404595-003	-----	-----
				Result	Result	Result	----	----
EA002: pH 1:5 (Soils)								
pH Value	----	0.1	pH Unit	6.2	6.4	6.0	----	----
EA010: Conductivity (1:5)								
Electrical Conductivity @ 25°C	----	1	µS/cm	32	29	26	----	----
ED007: Exchangeable Cations								
Exchangeable Calcium	----	0.1	meq/100g	5.7	6.5	7.2	----	----
Exchangeable Magnesium	----	0.1	meq/100g	5.6	6.4	7.3	----	----
Exchangeable Potassium	----	0.1	meq/100g	0.2	0.2	0.2	----	----
Exchangeable Sodium	----	0.1	meq/100g	0.7	0.9	0.9	----	----
Cation Exchange Capacity	----	0.1	meq/100g	12.3	14.0	15.7	----	----
Exchangeable Sodium Percent	----	0.1	%	6.1	6.3	6.0	----	----
EK072: Phosphate Sorption Capacity								
Phosphate Sorption Capacity	----	250	mg P sorbed/kg	1160	1090	1290	----	----

Page : 3 of 3
Work Order : EW2404595
Client : GSL Environmental
Project : Horns Crossing Road, VACY



Inter-Laboratory Testing

Analysis conducted by ALS Sydney, NATA accreditation no. 825, site no. 10911 (Chemistry / Biology).

(SOIL) EA010: Conductivity (1:5)

(SOIL) EA002: pH 1:5 (Soils)

(SOIL) EK072: Phosphate Sorption Capacity

(SOIL) ED007: Exchangeable Cations

Appendix E – Balances

Nutrient Balances

Parameters

Parameters	Symbol	Value
Daily Wastewater (L/Day)	Q	840
Total Nitrogen in Effluent (mg/L)	TN	40
Total Phosphorus in Effluent (mg/L)	TP	12
Design Life of System (Years)	L	50
P Sorption Soil Capacity (mg/kg)	Psorp	400
P Sorption Soil Capacity Field Coefficient (%)	PsorpC	0.5
Soil Depth for P Sorption	D	0.8
Bulk Density of Soil (g/cm ³)	B	1.6
Nitrogen Plant Uptake (kg/Ha/year)	NPU	240
Phosphorus Plant Uptake (kg/Ha/year)	PPU	30

Model Inputs

Applied Total Nitrogen (kg/year)	TN _A	12.26	$TN_A = (Q * TN * 365) / 1,000,000$
Applied Total Phosphorus (kg/year)	TP _A	3.68	$TP_A = (Q * TP * 365) / 1,000,000$

Model Outputs

Subsoil Nitrogen Soil Losses (kg/year)	NL	2.45	$NL = TN_A * 20\%$
Phosphorus Sorption by Soil (kg/m ²)	PS	0.26	$PS = ((Psorp / 1,000,000) * (B * 1,000)) * D * PsorpC$
Phosphorus Plant Uptake Over Design Life (kg/m ²)	PPU _L	0.15	$PPU_L = (PPU / 10,000) * L$

Model Results

Minimum Area Required for Nitrogen Uptake (m ²)	NUA _N	409	$NUA_N = (TN_A - NL) / NPU * 1,000$
Minimum Area Required for Phosphorus Uptake (m ²)	NUA _P	453	$(TP_A * L) / (PS + PPU_L)$
Maximum Area for Nutrient Uptake (m ²)	NUA	453	Max Value of NUA _N and NUA _P

Nutrient Balances

Parameters

Parameters	Symbol	Value
Daily Wastewater (L/Day)	Q	960
Total Nitrogen in Effluent (mg/L)	TN	40
Total Phosphorus in Effluent (mg/L)	TP	12
Design Life of System (Years)	L	50
P Sorption Soil Capacity (mg/kg)	Psorp	400
P Sorption Soil Capacity Field Coefficient (%)	PsorpC	0.5
Soil Depth for P Sorption	D	0.8
Bulk Density of Soil (g/cm ³)	B	1.6
Nitrogen Plant Uptake (kg/Ha/year)	NPU	240
Phosphorus Plant Uptake (kg/Ha/year)	PPU	30

Model Inputs

Applied Total Nitrogen (kg/year)	TN _A	14.02	$TN_A = (Q \cdot TN \cdot 365) / 1,000,000$
Applied Total Phosphorus (kg/year)	TP _A	4.20	$TP_A = (Q \cdot TP \cdot 365) / 1,000,000$

Model Outputs

Subsoil Nitrogen Soil Losses (kg/year)	NL	2.80	$NL = TN_A \cdot 20\%$
Phosphorus Sorption by Soil (kg/m ²)	PS	0.26	$PS = ((Psorp / 1,000,000) \cdot (B \cdot 1,000)) \cdot D \cdot PsorpC$
Phosphorus Plant Uptake Over Design Life (kg/m ²)	PPU _L	0.15	$PPU_L = (PPU / 10,000) \cdot L$

Model Results

Minimum Area Required for Nitrogen Uptake (m ²)	NUA _N	467	$NUA_N = (TN_A - NL) / NPU \cdot 1,000$
Minimum Area Required for Phosphorus Uptake (m ²)	NUA _P	518	$(TP_A \cdot L) / (PS + PPU_L)$
Maximum Area for Nutrient Uptake (m ²)	NUA	518	Max Value of NUA _N and NUA _P