Soil · Water · Geotechnical



On-site Wastewater Management Report Land capability assessment for new dwelling

Prepared for:	Client:	Metricon Homes
	Site Address:	8440 New England Highway Muswellbrook
	Project No:	305
	Version:	V.1.0
	Report Date:	02/04/25

Cover photo description:

Photograph showing the topography and ground cover at a location of the proposed effluent disposal area (EDA). Photo: B. Enman. Or T. Brown

Determination of potential bedroom:

A potential bedroom is a room that could reasonably be used as a bedroom. A potential bedroom is a room with a closable door, at least one window and a minimum of 8 square metres. A room in a separate building such as a studio could be considered a potential bedroom if it has a toilet and washing facilities or close access to same. This is the criteria used by Water NSW.

Report conditions of use:

This report is for the exclusive use of the client named above. It cannot be used or quoted without the complete document, including all appendices. The limitations of this report are stipulated in Section 9 and the copyright notice below.

This report is to be used in conjunction with the client's application to local council (under section 68) to install and/or alter and operate an Onsite Sewage Management System (OSMS) within their property boundaries. The client nor the plumber should not proceed with the installation of the OSMS recommended in this report until the local consenting authority has given approval. For those properties located within the Sydney drinking water catchment area additional approvals from Water NSW may also apply. This report does not outline of the OSMS as this is to be undertaken by the installer.

Copyright © 2024. Earthwise Environmental Pty Ltd. All Rights Reserved.

Unless Earthwise Environmental (EE) provides express prior written consent, no part of this report should be reproduced, distributed or communicated to any third party. We do not accept any liability if this report is used for an alternative purpose from which it is intended, nor to any third party in respect of this report.

Document revision history

Date	Version	Author	Reviewer	Comment
12.08.24	v.1.0 (draft)	Tyler Brown	Brett Enman	Draft report sent to client for comments
13.08.24	v.1.0	Tyler Brown	Brett Enman	Report made final
02.04.25	v.1.1	Tyler Brown	Brett Enman	Floor plans updated

OP RIGHT?	order and the thirth of the	
Site assessor and author:	Mr Tyler Brown	
Peer Reviewed by:	Mr Brett Enman	
Qualifications:	B. Science, (Geography) UNSW (hons). Certified Professional Soil Scientist (CPSS) Member of Soil Science Australia	
Signature:	BENM	
Date:	02.04.2025	

Table of Contents

1. Executive su	mmary	3
2. Introduction		4
2.1. Obje	ctive	4
2.2. Sco	De	4
3. Site Informa	tion	5
	nent	
	nent	
	jeology	
5.2. Desl	top soil research	7
5.3. On-s	site soil findings and test results	7
6. On-site Was	tewater Management System	9
	ng OSMS	
6.2. Prop	oosed wastewater treatment system	9
6.3. Trea	ted wastewater disposal method and sizing	9
6.4. Loca	ation of EDA and reserve area	10
6.5. Set I	back distances	
7. Conclusion.		11
8. Recommen	dations	12
9. Disclaimer, A	Assumptions, and Intellectual Property	15
10. References	3	
Appendix 1	Site layout plan	
Appendix 2	Floor plans	
Appendix 3	Soil profile descriptions	
Appendix 4	Hydraulic balance calculations	
Appendix 5	Standard drawing an absorption bed	
Appendix 6	Groundwater search results	
Appendix 7	Plants suitable for wastewater	

1. Executive summary

Owner	Mrs Reggie Milkellides	
Client	Metricon Homes	
Address	8440 New England Highway, Muswellbrook (Figure 1)	
Lot and DP	Lot 30 in DP 815308	
Investigation	This on-site wastewater management report outlines the results of a recent site and soil inspection. As the property is not serviced by a reticulated sewerage system effluent treatment and disposal is to be managed via an on-site sewage management system (OSMS). This wastewater report sets out a design of the OSMS to ensure it meets the objectives and scope set out below in section 2.	
Proposed development	Four-bedroom dwelling with two guest bedrooms and study (Appendix 2).	
Power supply	Mains 🛛 Solar with battery 🗆 Solar + battery + generator 🗆	
Water supply	Town □ Tank ⊠ Bore water & tank □	
No potential rooms	Seven (7)	
Equivalent persons	8 (assume two persons in main bedroom and then one person per bedroom thereafter.)	
Wastewater flow allowance (Q)	960L /day (8 persons x 120 L/day).	
Design Loading Rate (DLR)	5 mm/day (AS/NZS1547:2012 soil category 6).	
Proposed effluent treatment	NSW Health accredited septic tank with a minimum tank capacity of 4,500 L. (See section 6.1)	
Proposed effluent disposal method	Conventional absorption beds. A low pressure pump may be required to ensure an even application across the two beds.	
Total bed length	48 m (assume 4m width)	
Minimum basal area	192 m ² (see section 6.3)	
No. of beds and proposed dimensions	2 beds at 24 x 2 m	

2. Introduction

Earthwise Environmental (EE) was engaged by the client named above to undertake a site and soil assessment with the aim of designing an on-site sewage management system (OSMS) to treat and dispose of wastewater from a new proposed domestic dwelling to be built by Metricon Homes on a rural property in Muswellbrook (Figure 1). EE understands that the existing dwelling will be demolished, and its associated OSMS will be decommissioned. Additionally, EE notes that there is a quarry on the property, operated by Wild Quarry, which has workers regularly on-site. There is a separate OSMS for the workers, and an assessment of that system is outside the scope of this report.

2.1. Objective

The key objectives of this on-site site wastewater management study are:

- To protect public health and meet NSW Health statutory requirements.
- To maintain and enhance the quality of the environment by ensuring the on-site disposal of treated effluent will have a neutral or beneficial effect (NorBE) on water quality.
- To maintain and enhance community amenity.
- To protect natural resources.

Regarding this wastewater assessment the following standards, guidelines and local council requirements were followed:

- 1. Australian/New Zealand Standard (AS/NZS 1547:2012) for on-site domestic wastewater management (Standards Australia, 2012).
- 2. Australian/New Zealand Standard (AS/NZS 1546.1:2008) On-site domestic wastewater treatment units Septic tanks (Standards Australia, 2008)
- 3. Australian/New Zealand Standard (AS/NZS 3500:2018) Plumbing and drainage Part 2: Sanitary plumbing and drainage (Standards Australia, 2018).
- 4. NSW Environment and Health Protection Guidelines, On-site sewage management for single households "The Silver Book" (NSW Health, 1998).
- 5. Designing and Installing On-Site Wastewater Systems. 'The manual'. A Water NSW Current Recommended Practice (Water NSW, 2019).
- 6. Muswellbrook Shire Council Development Control Plan.
- 7. Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

2.2. Scope

EE undertook the following scope of works to achieve the above objectives.

- A desktop study to collate relevant information about the site, the area and proposed development.
- Visual and desktop assessment of any existing OSMS (as required) to determine feasibility and suitability for re-use;
- A site inspection to record land surface, site features, identify potential site constraints and identify the most appropriate effluent disposal area (EDA).
- An intrusive soil investigation [by a certified professional soil scientist (CPSS)] to characterize the soil profile and determine depth of bedrock and limiting layers
- Submit soils samples to a NATA (National Association of Testing Authorities) to determine potential soil limitations.
- An evaluation of the expected wastewater flow rates, site, and soil limitations.
- Recommend a suitable effluent treatment system, disposal method and the sizing of the EDA
 or effluent management area (EMA) required to meet to industry standards.

3. Site Information

Owner	Mrs Reggie Milkellides	
Client	Metricon Homes	
Site Address	8440 New England Highway Muswellbrook Figure 1	
Lot and DP	Lot 30 in DP 815308	
Current allotment Size	80 ha	
Local Council	Muswellbrook Shire Council	
Land use zoning	C3: Environmental Management	
Existing dwelling(s)	None	
Proposed development	Four-bedroom dwelling with two guest bedrooms and study (Appendix 2).	
No potential rooms	7	
Equivalent persons	8 (assume two persons in main room and one person thereafte	
Water supply	Town ⊠ Tank ⊠ Bore water & tank □	
Daily wastewater flow	960 L/day (8 persons x 120 L/day)	
Decile 5 annual rainfall	636 mm Scone Airport AWS (Bureau of Meterology, 2024)	
Mean annual evaporation	1,141 mm Cessnock (Nulkaba) (Bureau of Meterology, 2024)	
Annual Moisture deficit	505 mm	

Crop factor

E

0.4 to 0.8



Figure 1: 8440 New England Highway Muswellbrook 2333 (Source: SIX Maps)

4. Site Assessment

Details of the site assessment for the proposed effluent disposal area (EDA) are summarized in Table 1 with the EDA depicted in Appendix 1.

Table 1: Site assessment findings with constraint ratings according to The Silver Book (NSW Health, 1998).

Site Feature	Comment	Constraint rating
Inspection date	11.06.24	-
Rainfall (mm)	Week prior < 5 □ 5 - 10 □ 10-20 □ 20-30 □ > 30 ⊠	
Water balance		
	Wet weather storage: $Y \square N \square$ See Appendix 4	-
Proposed vegetation	Good □ Poor □ woodland Managed Lawn ⊠ Unmanaged Lawn □ Improved Pasture □ Perennial Pasture □ Trees & scrubs □ Trees & Shrubs (unmanaged) □	N/A
	EDA above 1:20 yr. Y⊠ N □	minor
Flood Potential:	Treatment system above 1:100 yr contour	minor
-	Solar exposure: Poor 🗆 Moderate 🗆 Excellent 🛛	5.65
Exposure	Wind exposure. Poor	minor
Slope	Waxing: Divergent □ Planar □ Convergent □ Linear: Divergent □ Planar ⊠ Convergent □ Waning: Divergent □ Planar □ Convergent □ Estimated slope grade <5 % ⊠ 5-10 % □ 10-20 % □ > 20 □ DIR Reduction required: None □ 20 % □ 50% □	minor
Landform	Hill Crest, convex side slopes & plains ⊠ Concave side slope and foot slope □ Drainage line or incised channel □	
Run-on and seepage	Run-on potential: Low ⊠ Medium □ High □ Seepage potential: Low ⊠ Medium □ High □ Upslope diversion: Y □ N ⊠ Assess after wet period & install as required □	
Site drainage	Surface water: $Y \square N \boxtimes$, if yes, temporary \square or long term \square Wet boggy ground. $Y \square N \boxtimes$ Natural spring $Y \square N \boxtimes$	
Erosion potential	Visual signs of erosion within or adjacent to EDA? Y □ N ⊠ Erosion potential: Low ⊠ Moderate □ Major □	
Fill	Fill material within proposed EDA? Y \boxtimes N \Box Potential impact on effluent disposal: Low \boxtimes Moderate \Box Major \Box	
Rocks & outcrops	Surface rocks: < 10% ⊠ 10-20 % □ > 20% □ Rocky outcrops: < 10% ⊠ 10-20 % □ > 20% □	
Bore water (100 m radius)	Y \Box N \boxtimes Stock and garden use \Box drinking water \Box Disused \Box (See Appendix 6)	minor

5. Soil Assessment

5.1. Site geology

Geological Unit: Singleton Coal Measures. Parent Rock: Lithic sandstone, shale, mudstone, conglomerate, siltstone and coal seams. Parent Material: In situ weathered parent rock and some derived colluvium. (NSW Department of Planning & Environment, 2024).

5.2. Desktop soil research

This soil landscape covers undulating low hills and undulating hills in the Liddell Power Station area. The main soils are Yellow Soloths (Dy2.41, Dy3.81) on slopes with some Yellow Solodic Soils (Dy3.32, Dy2.42, Dy3.42) on concave slopes. There are Earthy and Siliceous Sands (Uc5.22, Uc5.11) on mid to lower slopes where the parent material is more sandy. There are some Red Soloths (Dr2.41), Red Solodic Soils (Dr2.41) and Red Podzolic Soils (Dr5.11). (NSW Department of Planning & Environment, 2024).

5.3. On-site soil findings and test results

Two boreholes (BH1 and BH2) were taken in close location to the existing absorption bed to assess the characteristics of the soil and determine a suitable location to situate the new effluent disposal area (EDA). The soil inspection was carried out with the aid of a pneumatic post driver to ram a 50 mm steel tube to target depth or refusal.

The relatively undisturbed soil cores were laid out, photographed, and described in terms of soil horizons, colour, texture, structure and other notable features (see soil profile description in Appendix 3).

The indicative permeability (Ksat) has been inferred using the soil category type and structure of the most limiting layer (LL). From this a design loading rate (DLR) has been selected using the recommended DLRs outlined in Table L1 of AS/NSZ 1546:2012 (Standards Australia, 2012).

Two soil samples from BH1 underwent acidity (pH 1:5 soil-water extract) and Electrical Conductivity (EC, 1:5 soil-water extract) tests using a calibrated EZDO pH/EC meter. The pH 1:5 results were adjusted to pHca levels for comparison with NSW Health (1998) guidelines. The phosphorus sorption capacity results were derived from the generic texture-based values provided in Water NSW (2019).

Additionally, two soil aggregates (natural and remoulded) were assessed for stability by observing their reaction in deionized water over two hours, to identify slaking or dispersion. Detailed soil assessment and laboratory test results, including assessment ratings, are presented in Table 2 and table 3 below.

Table 2: Summary of the physical soil characteristics compared to the assessment ratings for on-site systems given in the Silver Book (NSW Health, 1998).

Soil Feature	Units	BH1	Constraint level	BH2	Constraint level
Bedrock depth	m	>1.1	minor	>1.5	minor
Water table depth	m	>1.1	minor	>1.5	minor
LL	unitless	Sandy clay	N/A	Sandy clay	N/A
Depth of LL	m	0.2	N/A	0.3	N/A
LL soil category	unitless	6	major	5	major
Structure of LL	unitless	Strong	N/A	Strong	N/A
Ksat	m/d	0.06-0.5	N/A	0.12-0.5	N/A
DLR	mm/day	5	N/A	5	N/A
Course fragments	%	<20%	minor	<20%	minor
Bulk density	g/cm ³	1.5	minor	1.5	minor

Table 3: Summary of the soil test results (with ratings) compared to NSW Health (1998) soil constraints.

Laboratory soil test results	Units	BH 2 0-0.2 m	Constraint level	BH 2 0.6-0.75 m	Constraint level
pH _{1:5 water}	pH units	6.58	N/A	8.46	N/A
pH _{ca}	pH units	7.38	minor	9.26	minor
Acidity rating	unitless	Ideal	N/A	Alkaline	N/A
EC (1:5)	dS/m	0.216	minor	0.0859	minor
ECe	dS/m	2.052	minor	0.73874	minor
Salinity rating	unitless	Slightly saline	N/A	Non-sa l ine	N/A
ESP	%	NT	N/A	NT	N/A
Sodicity rating*	unitless	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
CEC (effective)	cmol (+)/kg	NT	N/A	NT	N/A
Phosphorus Sorption^	mg/kg	400	N/A	500	N/A
	kg/ha	6,000	N/A	7,500	N/A
Emerson aggregate	Class/subclass	7	minor	7	minor

Note: NT = Not tested, N/A = not applicable

E

* Sodic soils are defined as having an ESP > 5% (Hazelton & Murphy, 2007).

^ Where no P sorption testing was performed, the soil texture-based P-sorption values given in Water NSW (2019) are used

6. On-site Wastewater Management System

6.1. Existing OSMS

The existing septic tank volume is estimated to be approximately 3,000 L, and no baffle was observed within the tank. Based on the new estimated daily wastewater flow rates, the septic tank is considered to be undersized with respect to AS/NZS1547:2012. Additionally, the absence of a baffle indicates that it does not meet AS/NZS1546:2008 requirements (Standards Australia, 2008). This tank should be desludged and decommissioned in accordance with NSW Health Advisory Note 3 (NSW Health, 2017).

According to the owner, wastewater disposal occurs via an absorption bed approximately 20 metres in length and 4 to 5 metres wide (80 to 100 m²). Any intrusive investigation to verify the construction of the absorption bed could potentially damage it; therefore, construction details could not be verified to ensure it meets current AS/NZS1547:2012 specifications. Based on the minimum size requirement outlined below in section 6.3, it is concluded that the absorption bed is likely undersized.

6.2. Proposed wastewater treatment system

Based on Table J1 of AS/NZS 1547:2012, a 4,000 L septic tank is required for an equivalent population of eight persons (Standards Australia, 2012). However, for conservative reasons, EE recommends a 4,500 L NSW Health accredited septic tank that complies with AS/NZS 1546.1:2008 (Standards Australia, 2008).

6.3. Treated wastewater disposal method and sizing

The recommended wastewater disposal method is via a conventional absorption bed (Appendix 5). Sizing of the bed is given as follows:

Minimum bed length (L) = $\frac{\text{Mean Daily Wastewater volume (Q)}}{\text{Design loading rate (DLR) × Bed width (W)}}$ $L = \frac{960}{5 \times 4}$ L = 48 mMinimum basal Area (A) = 48 m × 4 m $A = 192m^2$ Individual bed length shall be limited to 20 m; however, a longer bed is permitted provided the

installer can guarantee a level bottom over the base of the bed (Standards Australia, 2012).

Assuming a bed length of twenty-four (24 m) are installed, a total of two (2) beds will be required. Alternative bed dimensions and configurations are given in Table L2 of AS/NZS 1547:2012 (see recommendations).

The two beds should be spaced a minimum of one metre apart; however, if space permits, a twometre spacing with lawn in between is recommended to provide an effluent disposal area (EDA). Assuming 2 m spacing between the beds and a 1 m buffer around the outside of the beds, this configuration would provide an area of 312 m² (26×12).

A full water balance was undertaken over the entire year (Appendix 4) using the hydraulic area of 192 m². The results indicate there could potentially to be excess moisture during the cooler and wetter months. Based on the NSW Health guidance (p157) "if the cumulative storage does not return to zero or a negative value after summing the monthly values over the entire year, then the nominated irrigation/disposal area is not large enough and should be increased before repeating

the water balance" (NSW Health, 1998). As the monthly water balance calculations returned to zero the irrigation/disposal area does not need to be increased.

6.4. Location of EDA and reserve area

The site layout plan in Appendix 1 identifies a proposed location for the bed(s) situated within a designated EDA with room remaining below and beside this for expansion (if required) or a reserve area.

6.5. Set back distances

Recommended buffer distances for various systems are shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Recommended set back (buffer) distances for the site.

Feature	Set back distance (Absorption bed)	Comments
Property boundary	12 m (upgradient) 6 m (downgradient)	Easily achievable. The Silver Book.
Drainage line and dam	40 m	Easily achievable. The Silver Book.
Bed walls	2 m	L. A. LAN GHI GRE
Dwelling/buildings and driveways	6 m (upgradient) 3 m (downgradient)	Easily achievable. The Silver Book.
In ground water tanks	4 m	Water tanks should be upgradient of EDA.

7. Conclusion

The purpose of this wastewater report was to assess site and soil conditions for a new OSMS to service the proposed residential dwelling. The OSMS associated with the quarry was excluded from this study.

There is an existing septic tank and absorption bed which, according to the client, is council approved. During the site inspection, there was no visual or olfactory evidence to indicate that the existing OSMS was failing. However, given that the proposed dwelling will be much larger than the existing one, this wastewater management investigation concludes that the existing OSMS is undersized and therefore does not meet current AS/NZS 1547:2012 specifications.

The recommended wastewater treatment option for the new dwelling is a NSW Health accredited septic tank with a minimum tank capacity of 4,500 L. The site assessment found no moderate or major constraints.

The recommended wastewater disposal method is to continue using a conventional absorption bed built to AS/NZS 1547:2012 and Water NSW specifications. No heavy machinery should be driven over the location of the effluent disposal area (EDA) to prevent damage to the system.

The client is encouraged to use cleaning agents low in phosphorus (P) and sodium to help reduce phosphorus loads and maintain soil properties. According to Robert Patterson, using laundry products low in phosphorus can lead to total P reductions within the effluent by up to 30% (Patterson, 2001).

It is concluded that a sustainable OSMS can safely treat and dispose of the proposed wastewater loads generated on-site. The recommendations outlined below will help the OSMS align with the objectives outlined above.

Ē

8. Recommendations

- Where possible, install water saving devices such as AA or AAA rated plumbing all water fixtures within the dwelling as this will help reduce the effluent loading volume for disposal area.
- A licensed plumber or experienced installer should be consulted for the installation of the new proposed OSMS. Installation must comply with the manufacturer's recommendations, AS/NZS 1547:2012, Water NSW (2019) and AS/NZS 3500.2:2018 specifications and local council requirements.
- Decommission the existing septic tank in accordance to NSW Health Advisory Note 3; Destruction, Removal or Reuse of Septic Tanks, Collection Wells, Aerated Wastewater Treatment Systems (AWTS) and other Sewage Management Facilities (SMF) (NSW Health, 2017).
- Install a NSW Health accredited septic tank which complies with AS/NZS1546:2008 specifications. Minimum tank volume should be 4,500 L.
- A proposed location for the septic tank is given in the SLP however the exact location should be decided in consultation between the client/owner and the installer.
- AWTS/septic tank should be downgradient of the wastewater source(s) and be at least 3 m setback from property boundary and dwelling. Ease of access for servicing and desludging should be considered. Additional notes are provided in the SLP (Appendix 1).
- Any new untreated sewer pipes laid should be in accordance with the Water NSW (2019) document "Designing and Installing On-Site Wastewater Systems (Water NSW, 2019) and AS/NZS 3500.2.2018 (Table 5).

Nominal pipe size (DN)	Minimum grade %	Minimum grade ratio
65	2.5	1:40
80	1.65	1:60
100	1.65*	1:60
125	1.25	1:80
150	1.00	1:100

Table 5: Minimum pipe diameter calculations and minimum grades.

* Except for drains from septic tanks, sewage treatment plants and unvented discharge pipes from tundishes, which may have a minimum grade of 1%

 All sewer pipes between the plumbing amenities, AWTS and/or septic tank and EMA must be buried at a depth that provides protection against mechanical damage or deformation. Table 6 shows the minimum pipe depth for trafficable areas.

Table 6: Minimum pipe depth for trafficable and non-trafficable areas (Standards Australia, 2018).

Location	Minimum depth of cover (mm) for all pipematerials other than cast iron
subject to vehicular traffic	500
elsewhere	300

• Effluent disposal is to occur via a conventional absorption bed, running parallel to the slope contour and placed no deeper than 400 to 450 mm. A total basal area of 192 m² is required to

satisfy AS/NZS 1547:2012. Assuming an absorption bed width of 4 m, 48 linear metres would be required. Detailed design of the absorption beds is up to the installer.

- Proposed configuration is two (2) absorption beds spaced two (2) metres apart with lawn in between. Beds can be side by side or place on either side of the existing bed which is to be disconnected. Only grasses or small scrubs should be planted over the beds (see Appendix 8) to prevent root ingress of absorption beds.
- Alternative bed dimensions (to allow for a different configuration) are permitted as per AS/NZS 1547:2012 (Table 7).

Table 7. Absorption bed dimensions and depths. Source Table L2 of AS/NZS 1547:2012 (Standards Australia, 2012). * Note: Min requirement is 1000 mm.

Bed dimensions	Typical dimensions (mm)	Maximum (mm)	Minimum (mm)					
Width	1000-4000	4000	1000					
Depth of aggregate	300-600	600	300					
Depth of topsoil	100-150	150	100					
Spacing between adjacent beds (sidewall to sidewall)	-	N/A	2000					

- A standard drawing of an absorption bed is given in Appendix 5. The base of the absorption beds should not exceed more than 0.4 m depth and ≥ 0.6 m of soil depth is required below the base of the bed.
- Individual absorption bed/trench lengths shall be limited to 20 m (AS/NZS 1547:2012) with longer bed/trench length possible provided the installer can guarantee a level bottom over the entire bed length (Standards Australia, 2012). A laser or dumpy level will be required.
- Apply gypsum to the base of the absorption bed at a rate of 1kg/m² before aggregate and pipe work is laid (Standards Australia, 2012).
- The reserve area will consist of the area remaining within the EDA (Appendix 1) No buildings or structures should be built over this location.
- The reserve area will consist of the area remaining within the EDA (Appendix 1) No buildings or structures should be built over this location.
- Erosion and sediment controls (all excavation work) should be put in place, as per the NSW Department of Planning and Environment publication "Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and construction - Volume 1 (NSW DECC, 2004).
- Where beds are dug by an excavator in more clayey soils, scarify the bed walls to remove any smearing caused by the excavator bucket.
- Care should be taken not to smear the bottom or side walls of the beds as this could block the soil pores and prevent infiltration. If there are any tree roots or trench cuttings dissected during excavation work the holes/trench should be plugged with a medium clay or bentonite clay to prevent preferential flows.
- Excavated topsoil and clay subsoil material should be separated. The light to medium clay subsoil should not be re-used in the construction of the absorption bed.
- Any stormwater or rainwater overflows from the proposed dwelling or other buildings should be diverted away from the proposed EDA.
- Further site-specific details regarding bed construction (e.g., effluent line positioning within the beds, inspection holes, if required, may be determined in consultation with the plumber / installer.

- Up to 100 to 200 millimetres of local topsoil at the site can be re-used to cover the top of the absorption beds. It is a good idea to leave it slightly mounded above ground level to allow it to settle.
- The absorption bed(s) should be fenced off or clearly delineated so that no weight bearing vehicles (e.g., truck, tractor or car) or cattle can pass over the EDA as this may cause crush and damage the beds.
- All pipes and fittings should comply with AS2439.2, AS2698.2, AS/NZS 4129, AS/NZS 4130 or AS/NZS 1477.
- Apply aglime to the topsoil at a rate of 2.5 t/ha. Further details are outlined in the NSW DPI Soil acidity and Liming Agfact (Upjohn, Fenton, & Conyers, 2005).
- Ground cover should be quickly established on any area which experiences disturbance to the soil.
- Use of low phosphorus and low sodium (liquid) detergents to improve effluent quality and maintain soil properties.
- No bleaches or harmful chemicals should be used for cleaning sanitary devices nor tipped down sink or toilet.
- Baby wipes, tampons, cotton buds should not be disposed down toilet where a septic/AWTS is in use. Both owners and tenants of the property should be made aware of this.
- Leaking taps or toilets should be repaired immediately as this can lead to an overload of the absorption bed/trench and cause failure.
- Operation and management of the treatment and disposal system in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations and the recommendations made in this report. An operator's manual incorporating service records is to be kept by the owner.

9. Disclaimer, Assumptions, and Intellectual Property

This report provides information about the design of an on-site wastewater management system. The information is based on the best available knowledge and practices at the time of writing, but it is not a guarantee of the performance of any particular system. The results may vary depending on the specific site conditions and the way the system is installed and operated.

The property owner(s) are responsible for ensuring that your system is installed, operated, and maintained in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. You are also responsible for any damages or injuries that may result from the improper installation, operation, or maintenance of your system.

Earthwise Environmental and the authors of this report are not liable for any damages or injuries that may result from the use of this report.

The soil assessment data used to design the on-site wastewater management system is based on a limited number of borehole inspection locations and soil sample. However, the actual soil conditions at the site may differ from the borehole inspection or the sample tested, and there is no guarantee that the system will perform as expected. The performance of the system is also affected by how it is operated and maintained. All components of the system have a limited lifespan.

Earthwise Environmental Pty Ltd owns the intellectual property rights to this report, including all data, findings, and conclusions. The client is granted a license to use the report for the specific purpose identified after full payment for the services involved in its preparation.

The report should not be used by any third party for any purpose other than the one stated, and it should not be reproduced without the permission of Earthwise Environmental Pty Ltd.

Ē

10. References

- Bureau of Meterology. (2024). Bureau of Meterology. Retrieved January 2023, from http://www.bom.gov.au/
- Hazelton, P., & Murphy, B. (2007). Interpreting soil test results. What do all the numbers mean? Collingwood: CSIRO Publishing.
- NSW DECC. (2004). Managing urban stormwater: soils and construction. Volume 2A. In The Blue Book. Landcom.
- NSW Department of Planning & Environment. (2024). Geological Survey of NSW. Retrieved 2023, from https://minview.geoscience.nsw.gov.au
- NSW Health. (1998). Environment & Health Protection Guidelines. On-Site Sewage Management for Single Households. Sydney: NSW Government.
- Patterson, R. (2001). Phosphorus Sorption for On-site Wastewater Assessments. In R. P. Jones (Ed.), Proceedings of On-site '01 Conference: Advancing On-site Wastewater Systems (pp. 307-314). Armidale: Published by Lanfax Laboratories. Retrieved from http://www.lanfaxlabs.com.au
- Standards Australia. (2008). AS/NZS 1546.1:2008 On-site domestic wastewater treatment units -Septic tanks. Sydney: Standards Australia.
- Standards Australia. (2012). AS/NZS 1547:2012 On-site domestic wastewater management. Sydney: SAI Global.
- Standards Australia. (2017). AS/NZS 1546.3:2017. On-site domestic wastewater treatment units, Part 3: Secondary treatment systems. Standards Australia.
- Standards Australia. (2018). AS-NZS 3500-2: Plumbing and drainage Part 2: Sanitary plumbing and drainage. Sydney .: Standards Australia.
- Upjohn, B., Fenton, G., & Convers, M. (2005). Soil acidity and liming. AGFACTS.
- ali, , Soil ac , alling On-Site Water NSW. (2019). Designing and Installing On-Site Wastewater Systems. NSW State

Appendix 1 Site layout plan



Appendix 2 Floor plans

On-site Wastewater Management Report New dwelling Project No: 305

Appendix 3 Soil profile descriptions

Earthwise Environmental SOIL PROFILE DESCRIPTION OF BH1

PROJECT NUMBER/NAME 305 - WWR CLIENT Metricon LOT & D.P. 30/815308 ADDRESS 8440 New England Highway Muswellbrook

CORING DATE 11/06/24 MAX DEPTH 1.1m CORING METHOD Post Driver VEGETATION Managed Lawn GROUND COVER 100% LAT/LONG -32.323, 150.946 GROUNDWATER DEPTH >1.1m TOPOGRAPHY SURFACE ELEVATION see Appendix 1 LOGGED BY BE & TB

Photograph	Depth (m)	Horizon	Colour	Soil Texture	Soil Category	Structure	Mottles	Moisture	Soil profile features	Depth Sampled
	0.1		Dark brown	Sandy clay	5	Strong	Nil	Moist	Roots Common (10-20%) medium gravel. Disturbed layer	0-20
	0.2 -	B1	Brown	Medium clay	6	Strong	Slight	Moist	Gradual colour and texture change Common (10-20%) medium	60-
E <u>04</u> -	0.3			SE ENVIE	0, 77	20NME	MENTA	ATAL	gravel - quartz and sandstone Roots to depth	
	0.5	4.	2 HAR	ARTHN ^E	St.	ANNI LINI	ROM		Rocky layer between 0.5 - 0.6m	
	0.6	or M	2024.5	2A. EAR						
	0.8	4							Rocky layer between 0.8 - 0.85m	
	0.9								Abrupt change to loose fine	
E	1.1								gravel. BH terminated due to refusal	

Disclaimer Actual soil conditions may differ across the site.

Earthwise Environmental SOIL PROFILE DESCRIPTION OF BH2

PROJECT NUMBER/NAME 305 - WWR CLIENT Metricon LOT & D.P. 30/815308 ADDRESS 8440 New England Highway Muswellbrook CORING DATE 11/06/24 MAX DEPTH 1.5m CORING METHOD Post Driver VEGETATION GROUND COVER LAT/LONG -32.323, 150.946 GROUNDWATER DEPTH >1.5m TOPOGRAPHY SURFACE ELEVATION see Appendix 1 LOGGED BY BE & TB

Photograph	Depth (m)	Horizon	Colour	Soil Texture	Soil Category	Structure	Mottles	Moisture	Soil profile features	Depth Sampled
	- 0.1	н	Grey brown	Sandy clay Ioam	4	Strong	Nil	Moist	Roots	0-20
	- - 0.2 ·		Light brown	Sandy clay Ioam	4	Strong	Few	Moist	Abrupt colour change Many fine gravel Orange and grey mottles	
	- 0.3 - - - 0.4		Brown	Sandy clay	5	Strong	Slight	Moist	Abrupt colour and texture change. Many fine and coarse gravel. Clay content slightly decreases with depth	60-7
	- 0.5 -			SE EMA	A.	201 PO	MENNE	MAL		
	- 0.6 - - 0.7	E.	ATT A	HUNST	St		¢0.			
	_ — 0.8	202	*. ~?A.	APTE	KN					
	- 0.9	SK.	20.	24.2.						
	- 1 - - 1.1	24.24								
	- 1.2 -									
	- 1.3 - - 1.4									
NO.	- 1.5								BH terminated due to refusal	

Disclaimer Actual soil conditions may differ across the site.

Appendix 4 Hydraulic balance calculations

On-site Wastewater Management Report New dwelling Project No: 305

Homes	
Metricon H	
Client: N	

Ital]		Total	365	636	1,141			572	1,825	2,290		896	1,825	2,721			-432	43			
arthwise nvironmenta							Dec	31	77	177 1	0.8	Dec	69	155 1	224 2	Dec	141	155 1	296 2	Dec	0	-72	0			1 NB. Average soil acrossment trainally reasons from 30% to 70%, with variations demonstrate on soil
simo			S	a)			Nov	30	60	150	0.7	Nov	54	150	204	Nov	105	150	255	Nov	0	-51	0			
viro			Scone Airport AWS	Cessnock (Nulkaba)			Oct	ઝ	48	133	0.7	Oct	43	155	198	Oct	93	155	248	Oct	0	-50	0			the second second
		2	Scone A	Cessnoc			Sep	30	27	105	0.6	Sep	25	150	175	Sep	63	150	213	Sep	Q	-38	0			/002 0t /0
		5	Rainfall Data Loc:	Evaporation Data	SX		Aug	31	28	78	0.5	Aug	26	155	181	Aug	39	155	194	Aug	23	-1 1	10			
		S	Rainfall D	Evaporat	5		Jul	31	37	53	0.4	٦u	33	155	188	Jul	21	155	176	٦u	Ħ	12	23			=
			×9	2	ifiltrates.		Jun	30	32	45	0.4	Jun	29	150	179	Jun	18	150	168	nn	0	11	11	5%	%C	-
Ð					rainfall that remains onsite and infiltrates.		May	ઝ	27	59	0.5	May	25	155	180	May	29	155	184	May	0	<u>ې</u>	0	30 to 35%	40 to 60%	-
storaç					mains on:		Apr	30	24	84	0.6	Apr	22	150	172	Apr	50	150	200	Apr	0	-28	0	Sands	Clav	•
eather					all that re		Mar	31	58	121	0.7	Mar	52	155	207	Mar	85	155	240	Mar	0	-33	0	Porosity Sands		
★ wet w					on of rainf		Feb	28	45	137	0.8	Feb	41	140	181	Feb	110	140	250	Feb	0	69-	0			-
swellbroo					Proportion of		Jan	31	53	177	0.8	Jan	47	155	202	Jan	141	155 🔇	296	Jan	0	-94	0	22.8	4.4	
to dete	Total	960	35	5	0.9	192	Units	days	mm/mth	mm/mth		Units	mm/mth	mm/mth	mm/mth	Units	mm/mth	mm/mth	mm/mth	Units	mm/mth	mm/mth	mm	mm	KL	
e with nominated area to determine v Client: Metricon Homes Address: 8440 New England Highway Muswellbrook	Units	L/day	mm/week	mm/day	unitless	m²	Formula					Formula	R × Rc	Q×D/L	M+d	Formula	ExC	(R/7) X D	ET + B	Formula	47	0-10	0	largest M	V X L/1000	
with nominated a Client: Metricon Homes dress: 8440 New Fndlar	Symbol	σ	Я	DIR	Вс		Symbol	Δ	٩	ш	С	Symbol	RR	M	_	Symbol	ET	В	0	Symbol	Ъ	S	Σ	>	>	
Water balance with nominated area to determine wet weather storage Client: Metricon Homes Address: 8440 New Endland Hichway Muswellbrook	Parameter	ter flow	Percolation Rate	DIR or DLR	Runoff Coeffient	Nominated EDA	Parameter	Days in Month	Median Precipitation	Mean Evaporation	Crop Factor	INPUTS	Retained rainfall	Effluent Irrigation	Total Inputs	OUTPUTS	Evapotranspiration	Percolation	Total Outputs	STORAGE	Carry over	Monthly Storage	Cumulative Storage	Storage		-

Appendix 5 Standard drawing an absorption bed



GRAVITY FED ABSORPTION BED STANDARD DRAWING Title Checked ЪЗ Drafted FINAL VERSION UNITS = MM NOT TO SCALE Surveyed WORKSHOP 8. 20-22 BALL ST, WOONONA NSW 2517 0421 251 064 - BRETTØEARTHMSEENVIRONMENTAL-COM.AU EARTHWISEENVIRONMENTAL.COM.AU ABN: 946 666 599 553 SERVICING THE FOLLOWING REGIONS WOLLONGONG | GREATER SYDNEY | SHOALHAVEN | GOUILIRIEN I NEWCASTI F Earthwise Environmental COPYRIGHT © 2024. EARTHWISE ENVIRONMENTAL PTY LTD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Sheet No. 11

Date: 12/01/2024



Source: Water NSW 2019.

Appendix 6 Groundwater search results

On-site Wastewater Management Report New dwelling Project No: 305





Ref No: J305 QCAD File Address ot/ DP АЗ FINAL VERSION DO NOT SCALE WORKSHOP 8. 20 22 BALL ST, WOONGNA, NSW E. CONTACTUSGERAFINISTEENINGPINIENINGONALIZAL COM. M. 0227 351 084 WWM.EARTHINGEENINGONALIZAL COM.AU SOIL | WATER | GEOTECHNICAL WESTERN SYDNEY | WOLLONGONG | SHOALHAVEN | SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS | GOULBURN | NEWCASTLE Earthwise Environmental DATE

Revision

Date:

Appendix 7 Plants suitable for wastewater

On-site Wastewater Management Report New dwelling Project No: 305

Vegetation suitable for planting with effluent application areas

Below is a list of grasses, groundcover/climbers and other native trees and scrubs that are recommended for planting in the effluent disposal areas. You may take this list to your local nursery or to your landscaper. Note: Other plants may also be suitable to grow with effluent disposal areas, please seek expert advice for further information.

Botanical Name	Approximate Height	Common Name or Variety					
Grasses							
Carex spp. Lomandra longifolia Microlaena stipoides Oplismenus imbecillis Pennisetum alopecuroides Poa lab Stipa spp.	40 - 80 cm	Available as lawn turf					
Ground cover/climbers		and a star of					
Hibbertia scandens Hibbertia stellaris	N. P.	Snake vine					
Isotoma fluviatal is Kennedia rubicunda Scaevola albida Scaevola ramosissi ma Veronica plebeia	Prostrate Climber	Dusky coral pea					
Viola hederacea	AN IROTH AMETER	Native violet					
Sedges/grasses/small plants	and and and						
Anigozanthus flavidus Baumea acuta Baumea articulata Baumea juncea Baumea nuda Baumea rubiginosa Baumea teretifolia Blandfordia grandiflora Blandfordia nobilis Brachyscome diversifolia Carex appressa Cotula coronopifolia Crinum pedunculatum Cyperus polystachyos	2m Sedge Sedge Sedge Sedge 30-90cm 30-90cm Clump Sedge 10-20cm <2m Sedge	Kangaroo Paw Christmas Bell Christmas Bell Native Daisy Waterbutton Swamp Lily					
Dianella caerulea Epacris microphylla Ferns Gahnia spp. Juncus spp. Lobelia trigonocaulis	Low plant 50cm - 1m Tall Grass 0.5 m Rush 5-10cm Grass	Blue Flax Lily					
Lomandra spp. Patersonia fragilis Patersonia glabrata Patersonia occidentalis Ranunculus graniticola	5cm	Native Iris Native Iris Native Iris					
Restio australis Restio tetraphyllus	Reed 1m						
Sowerbaea juncea Tetratheca juncea	Sedge <30cm	Rush Lily					
Xyris operculata	<1m	Tall Yellow Eye					

Botanical Name	Approximate Height	Common Name or Variety					
Shrubs							
Agonis flexuosa <mark>na</mark> na							
Baekea linifolia	1 - 2.5 m						
Baekea utilis	1-2.5 m						
Baekea virgata	< 4 m						
Banksia aemula	1 - 7 m						
Banksia robur	0.5 - 2 m						
Bauera ruboides	0.5 - 1.5 m						
Callistemon	2 - 3 m	Burgundy					
Callistemon	2 - 4 m	Eureka					
Callistemon	3 - 4 m	Harkness					
Callistemon	3 - 4.5 m	Kings Park Special					
Callistemon	2 - 3 m	Mauve Mist					
Callistemon	1 - 2.5 m	Red Clusters					
Callistemon	2 - 3 m	Reeves Pink					
Callistemon citrinus	50 - 80 cm	Austraflora Firebrand					
Callistemon citrinus	2 - 4 m	Splendens					
Callistemon citrinus	60cm - 1m	White Ice					
Callistemon linearis	1 - 3 m						
Callistemon macropunctatus	2 - 4 m						
Callistemon pachyphyllus	2 - 3 m						
Callistemon pallidus	1.5 - 4 m						
Callistemon paludosus	3 - 7 m						
Callistemon pinifolius	1 - 3 m						
Callistemon rigidus	1.5 - 2.5 m						
Callistemon salignus	3 – 10m						
Callistemon shiresii	4 - 8 m						
Callistemon sieberi	1.5 - 2 m						
Callistemon sieberi	50 - 80 cm	Austraflora Little Cobber					
Callistemon subulatus	1 - 2 m						
Callistemon viminalis	1 - 2 m	Captain Cook					
Callistemon viminalis	5 - 10 m	Dawson River					
Callistemon viminalis	3 - 5 m	Hannah Ray					
Callistemon viminalis	50 cm - 1 m	Little John					
Callistemon viminalis Callistemon viminalis	1.5 - 2 m	Rose Opal					
Callistemon viminalis Goodenia ovata	2 - 3 m	Western Glory					
Goodenia ovata Hibiscus diversifolius	1 - 1.5 m	Provide an Arthony and					
Kunzea capitata	1 - 2 m	Swamp hibiscus					
Leptospermum flavescens	1 - 2 m	Too troo					
Leptospermum juniperinum	< 2 m	Tea-tree Tea-tree					
Leptospermum Ianigerum	1 m 1 - 2 m						
Leptospermum squarrosum	< 2 m	Woolly tea-tree Tea-tree					
Melaleuca alternifolia	< 2 m 4 - 7 m	lea-u ee					
Melaleuca decussata	4 - 7 m 1 - 2 m	Cross-leaved honey myrtle					
Melaleuca lanceolata	4 - 6 m	Gross-reaved honey myrue					
Melaleuca squamea	1 - 2 m						
Melaleuca thymifolia	A 111						

Botanical Name	Approx Height	Common Name or Variety
Trees		
	1725	
Acacia elongata	> 2 m	223 Mar
Acacia floribunda	2 - 4 m	Gossamer wattle
Agonis flexuosa	5 - 6 m	Willow myrtle
Allocasuarina diminuta	1.5 m	
Allocasuarina paludosa	0.5 - 2 m	
Angophora floribunda	Large tree	
Angophora subvelutina	Large tree	
Callicoma serratifolia	< 4m	2
Casuarina cunninghamiana	10 - 30 m	River she-oak
Casuarina glauca	6 - 12 m	Swamp oak
Elaeocarpus reticulatis	Large tree	Blueberry ash
Eucalyptus amplifolia	Large tree	
Eucalyptus botryoides (coastal areas)	10 - 30 m	200
Eucalyptus camaldulensis (west of ranges)	15 - 20 m	River red gum
Eucalyptus deanei	Large tree	Blue Mountains blue gum
Eucalyptus elata	Large tree	River Peppermint
Eucalyptus grandis	10 - 20 m	Flooded gum
Eucalyptus longifolia	20 m	Woollybutt
Eucalyptus pilularis	30 - 40 m	Blackbutt
Eucalyptus punctata	< 35 m	Greygum
Eucalyptus robusta	20 - 30 m	Swamp mahogany
Eucalyptus saligna (coastal)	30 - 50 m	Sydney blue gum
Eucalyptus tereticomis	30 - 40 m	Forest red gum
Eucalyptus viminalis (ranges)	20 - 40 m	Ribbon gum
Acmena smithii	10 - 20 m	Lilli pilli
Flindersia australis	< 40 m	Native teak
Hymenosporum flavuum	3 - 6 m	Native frangipani
Melaleuca armillaris	3 - 4 m	Bracelet honey myrtle
Melaleuca decora	4 - 7 m	
Melaleuca ericifolia	6 m	
Melaleuca halmaturorum	4-6m	
Melaleuca hypericifolia	2 - 3 m	C
Melaleuca linariifolia	4 - 8 m	Snow in summer
Melaleuca quinquenervia	5 - 7 m	Broad paperbark
Melaleuca squarrosa	6 m	
Melaleuca stypheloides	6 - 15 m	
Melia azedarach	15 - 20 m	
Pittosporum spp.	0.00	Durch alternation
Syzgium paniculatum	8 - 10 m	Bush cherry
Tristania laurina	5 - 15 m	Kanuka Caldan antau
Viminaria juncea	2 - 3 m	Golden spray

Source: Australian Plants Society