

Hindmarsh Shire Council

Onsite Wastewater Management Plan 2024-2029

Adopted 28 August 2024



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1. Introduction and context

Effective treatment and management of domestic wastewater – principally consisting of water, sewage and other human-derived wastewater – is integral to managing risks to human health and the environment. Onsite Wastewater Management Systems (OWMS) that perform poorly can have a range of negative environmental, human health and amenity related impacts. This can involve discharging nutrients and pathogens into local drainage systems, waters, and creeks, causing boggy lawns and offensive odours, as well as a risk of illness following contact with effluent. Hindmarsh Shire Council plays an instrumental role in understanding and managing risks associated with OWMS that have a sewage flow rate below 5,000 litres a day.

This Onsite Wastewater Management Plan (OWMP) is a planning and management document that focuses on the Hindmarsh Shire Council's understanding of the cumulative risks that OWMS presents in our municipality and shapes the Council's activities in managing those risks now and into the future.

The identification and assessment of risks identified in this OWMP supports the development and implementation of actions to protect human health and the environment.

This OWMP was developed with input from relevant stakeholders and will help developers and regulators better appreciate the risks and steps Hindmarsh Shire Council is taking to protect human health and the environment.

1.1. OWMP purpose

This OWMP supports Council's decision-making when issuing OWMS permits. Risks of harm to human health and the environment (including cumulative risks) will be identified, and the potential impact the OWMS poses in the municipality will be assessed. It then informs Council on what actions to take to better inform decision-making for OWMS permits.

1.2. Legislation

The Environment Protection Act 2017 (the Act) and Environment Protection Regulations 2021 (Regulations)

set out the laws that apply to owners and occupiers of land with an OWMS and provide councils with a range of powers and tools to regulate OWMS, including:

- the requirement for a permit issued by Council to construct, install or alter an OWMS;
- requirements for the operation and maintenance of OWMS for owners and occupiers;
- General Environmental Duty (GED) powers delegated by EPA to Council to allow authorised officers to enter and inspect properties with an OWMS, request documentation, require improvements and issue infringements.

Hindmarsh Shire Council is also empowered under other legislation that has been considered when developing this OWMP and in issuing an OWMS permit. These include:



- *Local Government Act 2020*
- *Water Act 1989*
- *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*
- *Safe Drinking Water Act 2003 and Regulations 2015*
- *Planning and Environment Act 1987 (P&E Act)*
- *Subdivisions Act 1988.*

1.3. Guidelines

This OWMP has been developed with consideration to the following guidelines and reference documents:

- Guideline for onsite wastewater management (GOWM)
- Land Capability Assessment Framework, MAV, 2014
- Guidelines for Planning permit applications in open and potable water supply catchment areas (currently under review)
- Planning Practice Note 39: Using the Integrated Water Management Provisions of Clause 56 – Residential Subdivision

2. Risk assessment

A core component of OWMP is a risk assessment method for systematically identifying and analysing the risks associated with OWMS across the municipality.

The outcomes of this risk assessment assist Council in identifying and prioritising management actions and understanding the resources necessary to address any unacceptable risks.

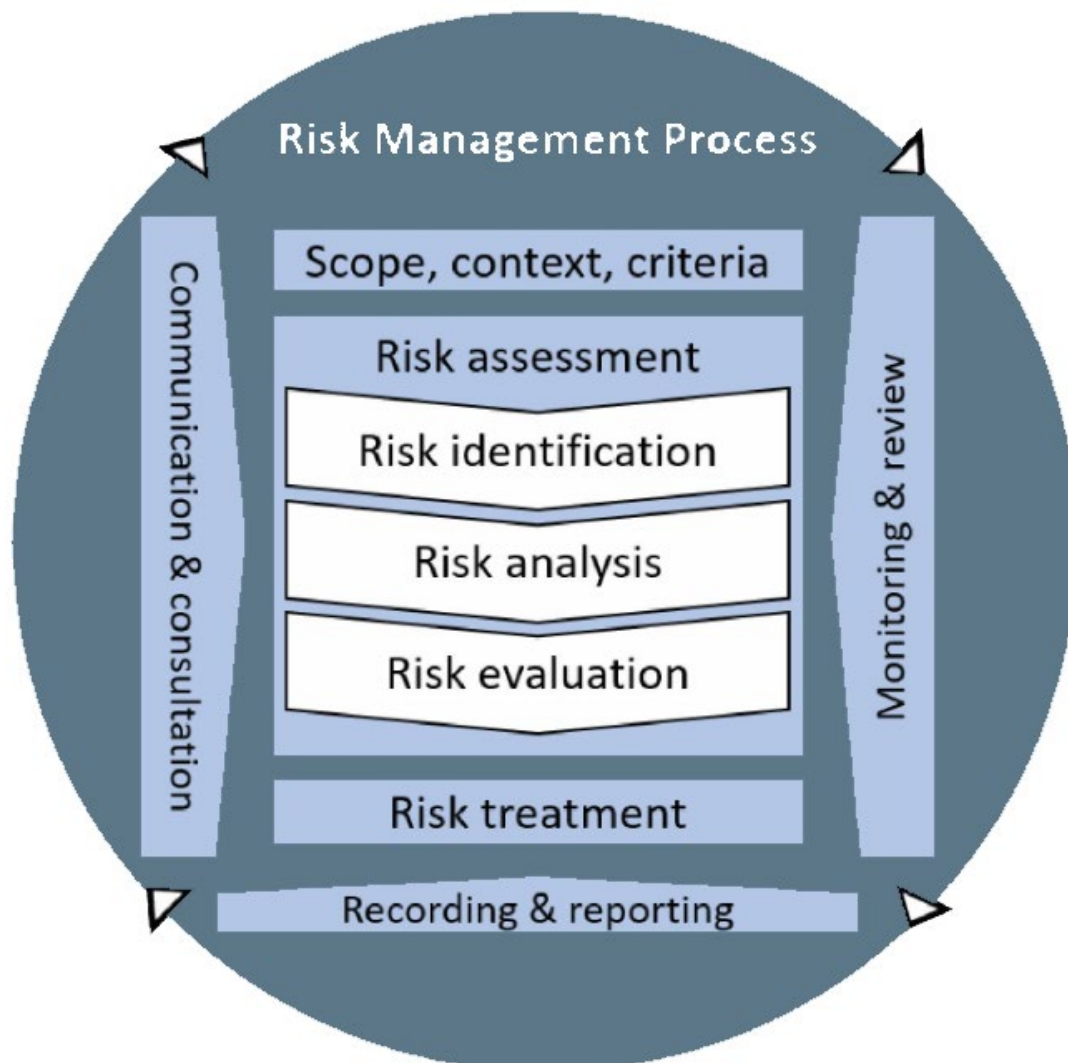
The risk management is consistent with

- AS/NZS 1547:2012 and ISO 31000:2018
- EPA, Onsite wastewater management plans Risk Assessment Guidance Final Report (v4.0)
- Draft - Onsite wastewater management plans: Guidelines for developing, reviewing and updating.

Figure 1 sets out the structure used to assess risks in this OWMP.



Figure 1 OWMP risk management structure



2.1. Scope

This OWMP covers the municipality but excludes the following:

- Premises with sewage flow rates above 5,000 litres a day, or
- Properties connected to reticulated sewerage, those being;
 - Dimboola
 - Nhill

Within scope are the following townships (sub-catchments):

- Dimboola (unsewered areas)
- Nhill (unsewered areas)
- Netherby
- Yanac
- Kiata

Each location has been assessed for impacts on human health and the environment, e.g.:

- groundwater



- surface water
- special environmental areas
- any downstream considerations

The risk types to be assessed include any human health and environmental impacts related to the installation, operation, and maintenance of an OWMS (including potential cumulative impacts of multiple OWMS).

The risk assessments are predominantly based on existing OWMS; however, they will also help inform the risk of the proposed OWMS.

The risk assessments were undertaken in consultation with key stakeholders, with their concerns being considered in the actions identified in this OWMP.

This OWMP has also been developed in the context of resource capacity and financial constraints that are associated with small regional local government authorities. Priorities and actions identified in this OWMP reflect the risks to human health and the environment along with Council's capacity to resource and fund risk mitigations.

Properties outside these towns are considered rural and do not form part of this risk assessment process. They are considered lower risk and applications for onsite wastewater management are dealt with on an individual basis.



Figure 2 – Areas within the scope of this OWMP

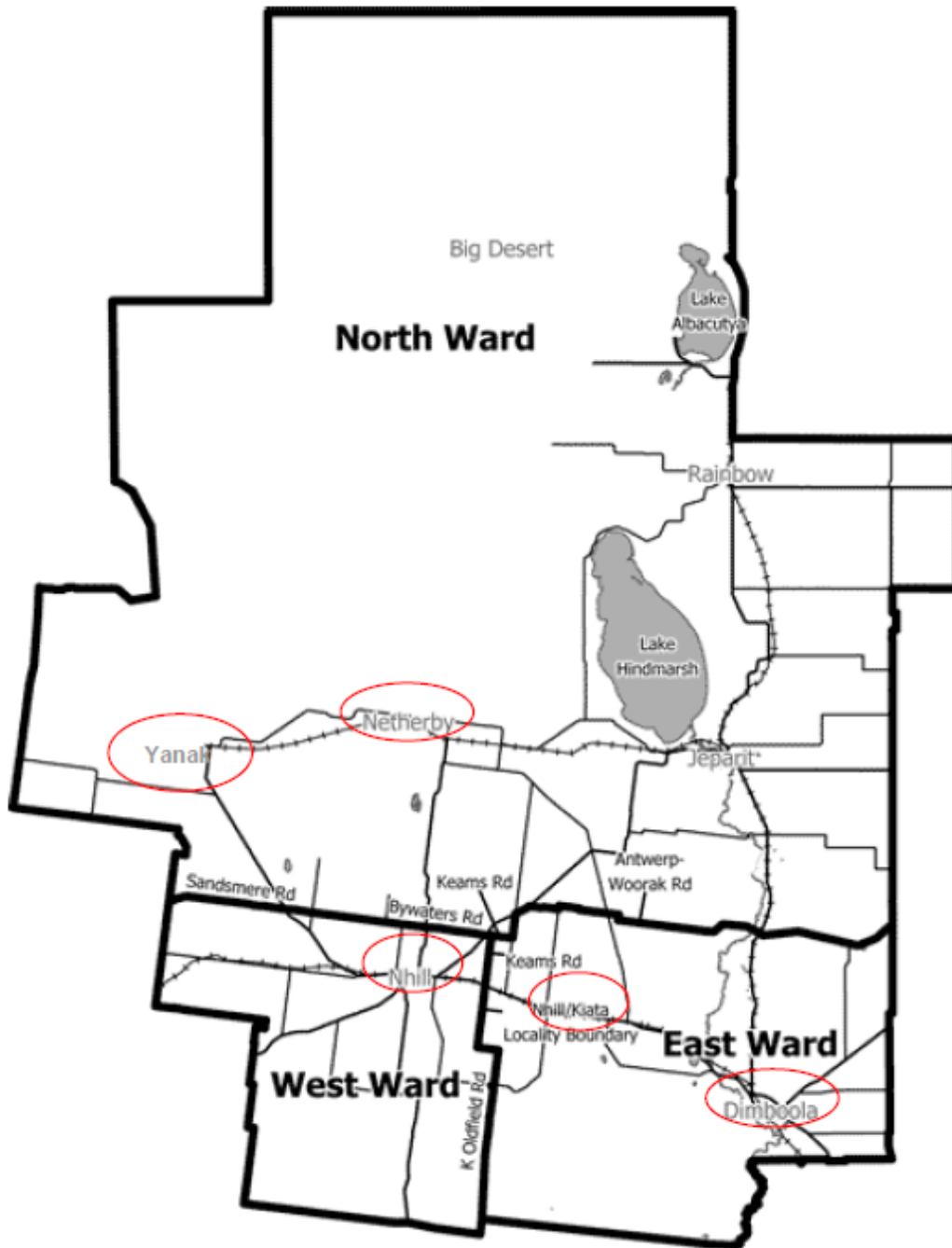




Figure 3 – Dimboola (areas 1, 2 and 3) – unsewered areas

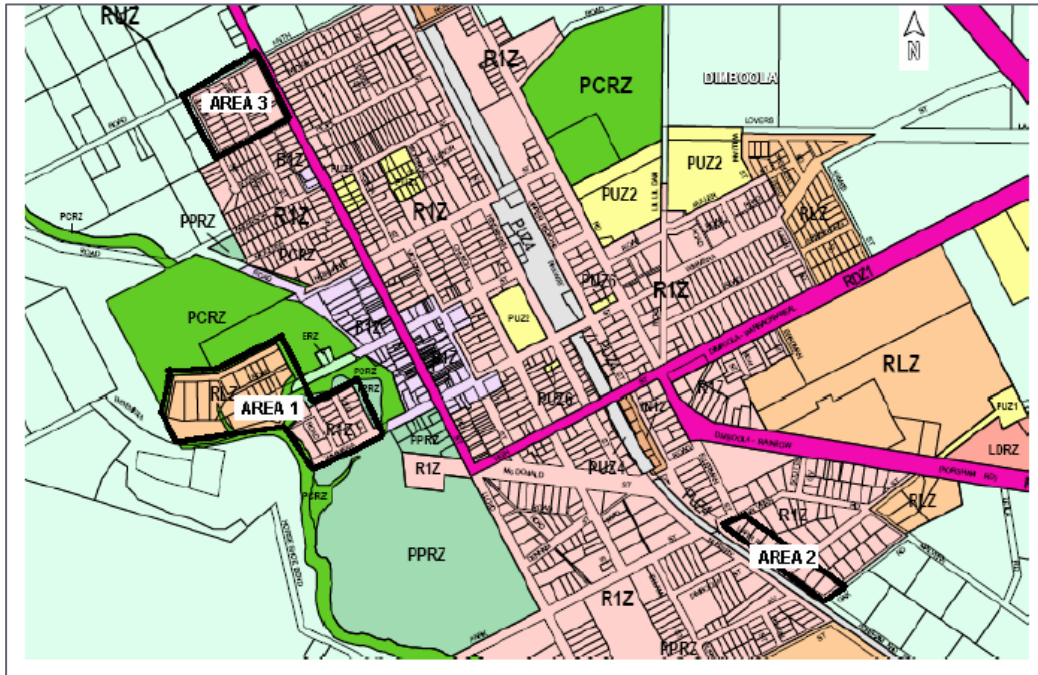


Figure 4 – Nhill – unsewered areas

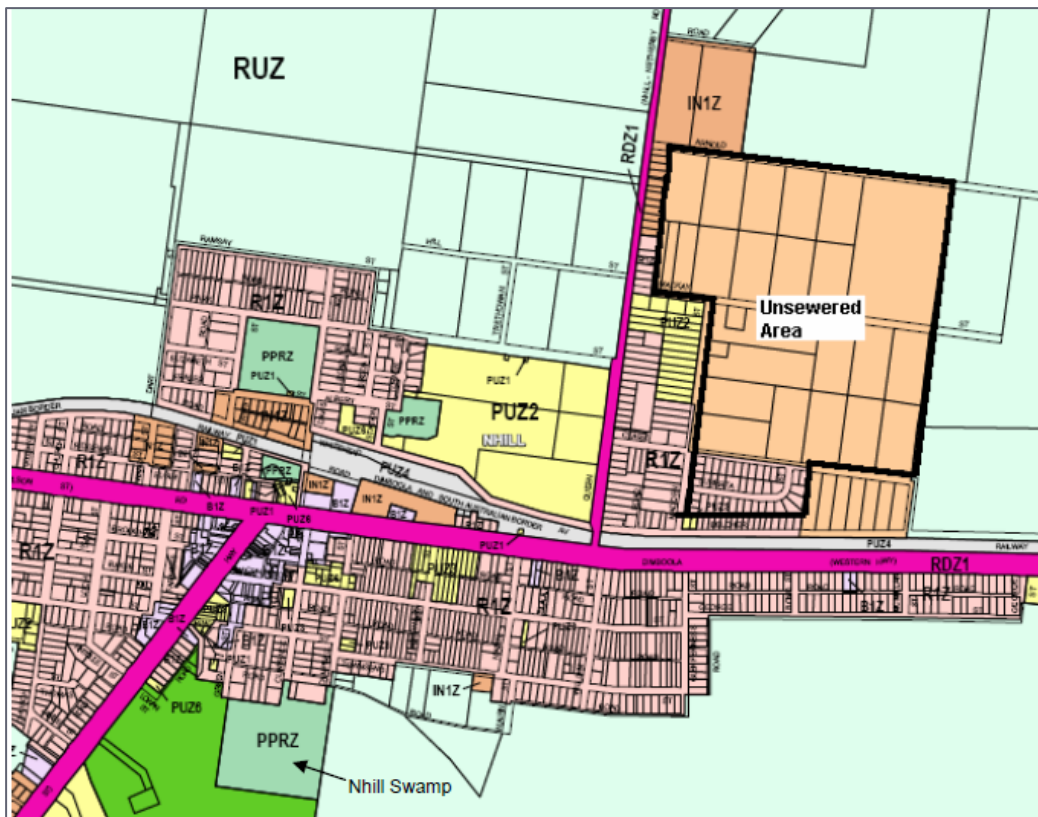




Figure 5 – Netherby





Figure 6 – Yanac



Figure 7 – Kiata



2.2. Risk identification

Each location has been risk assessed using the metrics for risk factors identified in Appendix 1 and the EPA's risk assessment tools. The risk factors are based on 'Onsite wastewater management plans Risk Assessment Guidance' June 2022 and were discussed and developed in consultation with key stakeholders.

Table 1 A summary of each location is provided below.

Location	Sources of wastewater threat
Dimboola area 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located adjacent to the Wimmera River but 50km away from any water supply catchment area • A total of 10 properties of a septic tank, age or performance unknown. • No complaints in the past several years • Nine smaller lots but soil is sandy • Relatively flat and subsurface irrigation • Located in a flood plain area • No groundwater concerns • Relatively few heavy rainfall events
Dimboola area 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located away from the Wimmera River and 50km away from any water supply catchment area • A total of 5 properties and the septic tank ages or performance unknown. • No complaints in the past several years • three smaller lots but soil is sandy loam • Relatively flat and subsurface irrigation • Located outside a flood plain area • No groundwater concerns • Relatively few heavy rainfall events
Dimboola area 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located away from the Wimmera River and 50km away from any water supply catchment area • A total of 8 properties and the septic tank ages or performance unknown. • No complaints in the past several years • One smaller lot and soil is a sandy loam • Relatively flat and subsurface irrigation • Located outside a flood plain area • No groundwater concerns • Relatively few heavy rainfall events
Nhill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located away from water ways and any water supply catchment area • A total of 16 properties and the septic tank ages or performance unknown. • No complaints in the past several years • 4 smaller lots and soil is a fine sand/loam • Relatively flat and subsurface irrigation • Located outside a flood plain area • Several groundwater bores in the vicinity but all greater than 10m • Relatively few heavy rainfall events
Netherby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No surface water in the vicinity and 90km away from any water supply catchment area • A total of 21 properties and the septic tank ages or performance unknown. • No complaints in the past several years • 14 smaller lot and soil is a fine sand/loam • Relatively flat and subsurface irrigation • Located outside a flood plain area



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several groundwater bores in the vicinity but all greater than 10m • Relatively few heavy rainfall events
Yanac	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No surface water in the vicinity and 96km away from any water supply catchment area • A total of 25 properties and the septic tank ages or performance unknown. • No complaints in the past several years • 19 smaller lot and soil is a fine sand/loam • Relatively flat and subsurface irrigation • Located outside a flood plain area • Several groundwater bores in the vicinity but all greater than 10m • Relatively few heavy rainfall events
Kiata	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No surface water in the vicinity and 90km away from any water supply catchment area • A total of 21 properties and the septic tank ages or performance unknown. • No complaints in the past several years • 13 smaller lot and soil is a sandy loam • Relatively flat and subsurface irrigation • Located outside a flood plain area • Several groundwater bores in the vicinity but all greater than 10m • Relatively few heavy rainfall events

2.3. Risk analysis

The risk analysis tool provided by the EPA has been used for this assessment. The assessment process calculates the likelihood and consequence of each risk factor resulting in a negative health or environmental outcome and an assessment of the cumulative impacts.

The guidance provided in the EPA OWMP risk assessment guidance has been used to establish environmental and human health criteria.

The results of the risk assessment are provided in Appendix 2.

3. Risk evaluation and treatment

The following Risk Matrix was used based on the Risk Assessment Guideline and the assessment toolkit provided by the EPA.

Table 2 Risk evaluation

Likelihood	Consequence				
	Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic
Rare	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	High
Unlikely	Low	Low	Moderate	High	High
Possible	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High	Very High
Likely	Low	Moderate	High	High	Very High
Almost certain	Low	Moderate	High	Very High	Very High

A summary of the Risk Assessment is provided in Appendix 3. No location had risk of human or environmental contamination with an overall rating of high or very high.



Only moderate and low levels of risk were identified across each of the locations. For low risk outcomes, no further actions are being considered.

For moderate risk levels, mitigation actions should be planned and implemented to reduce the level of risk.

The table below summarises specific risks identified as greater than low risk. the locations and moderate risks levels, mitigating controls in place and whether they are deemed acceptable.

Table 3 Risk evaluation criteria

Risk Level	Risk treatment required
Low	No further actions needed to eliminate risks. Existing controls must be maintained and monitored appropriately
Moderate	Risk mitigation actions should be planned and implemented to reduce the level of risk. Timelines may be longer term. Existing controls must be maintained and monitored appropriately.
High	Implement relevant controls as soon as possible to mitigate the level of risk. High priority timeframes should be implemented (planned and budgeted for within the current or next financial year). Existing controls must be maintained and implementation reviewed on an ongoing basis. .
Very High	Implement relevant controls to reduce risk as soon as possible to mitigate the level of risk. Immediate priority timeframes should be set. Existing controls must be maintained and implementation reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Table 4 Specific areas identified as greater than low risk

Risk	Risk component	Dimboola 2
Risk of contamination of nearest watercourse and groundwater	Human health	Predominately due to size of area, unknown condition and age of septic systems and lot sizes

Cumulative risks within or across locations and sub catchments have been assessed and considered a moderate risk for environmental and human health impacts for surface water contamination.

3.1. Actions

Hindmarsh Shire Council actively promotes responsible environmental management practices. By preparing and adopting the OWMP, Hindmarsh demonstrates its commitment to improving the management of domestic wastewater within the Shire.

The successful implementation of the OWMP Action Plan (Appendix 4) can largely be contained within the existing Environmental Health budget and allocation of resources, along with some cross organisation development of solutions, such as improved use of technology to achieve greater compliance.

External funding will also be sought, including grants, from GWMWater and the State and Federal governments.



4. Monitoring and Review

This OWMP will be used to feed into annual budget and programming cycles of the Council. It will be reviewed at a minimum annually to remain up to date and whenever required to:

- reflect changes in the organisation, resources or policies
- identify and address emerging risks
- ensure that identified actions are current and effective in reducing the identified and emerging risks.

Specific risks that require additional monitoring, inspections or review are listed in the action plan in Appendix 3.

5. Consultation

Council has directly consulted with the following agencies as part of this review:

- Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water
- Wimmera Catchment Management Authority
- Neighbouring Councils

Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water was consulted regarding its plans for wastewater infrastructure, risks related to water catchments, and approach to development approval processes. The outcomes of these discussions were included in the location risk assessments and reflected in any actions.

Wimmera Catchment Management Authority provided guidance on surface and groundwater management in the region and their feedback was also incorporated into the draft OWMP. They were invited to comment on the OWMP while it was in draft.

Hindmarsh Shire Council worked alongside neighbouring Councils, which resulted in a consistent approach to risk assessments in the region and supporting material to help developers, plumbers, and homeowners approach OWMS in a consistent and transparent manner.

As part of finalising the OWMP, it was released as a draft for public comment. Local plumbers, developers, and businesses involved in OWMS were provided the opportunity to inform the final version of this OWMP.

The OWMP has been developed with internal staff and endorsed by Council.

6. Responsibilities

Hindmarsh Shire Council

Under the *Environment Protection Act 1970* and through the EPA Code of Practice - Onsite Wastewater Management, Hindmarsh Shire Council (in particular, Environmental Health, Planning and Building Services) is responsible for:

- Providing educational information and advice regarding OWMS to the community;
- Ensuring new residential subdivisions in unsewered areas are provided with reticulated sewerage - or that the allotments are capable of treating and containing all domestic wastewater on site;
- Issuing permits to install or alter OWMS and issuing a certificate to use the OWMS;
- Refusing to issue a permit if the system does not hold a current Certificate of Conformance or if the site is unsuitable and/or the area available for the treatment and disposal of effluent is not sufficient;
- Ensuring that OWMS are operating correctly and that property owners comply with conditions on OWMS permits and certificates.

Landowners and occupiers

A landowner's wastewater responsibilities consist of the following:

- Connecting to the mains sewerage system where it is available (in a declared sewer area) and the existing OWMS does not meet EPA standards at the time the sewer (connection point) became available;
- In unsewered areas, obtaining a permit to install or alter an OWMS before a building permit is issued and any OWMS installation or alteration works commence; and
- Obtaining a certificate to use the system once installation has been completed and approved.

With regard to the ongoing maintenance of an OWMS, it is the land occupier's responsibility to ensure that:

- The maintenance requirements of the OWMS are implemented, including de-sludging (every 3-8 years, depending on the system loading), and any specified monitoring conditions under the permit;
- If the system type is a secondary treatment plant – it undergoes maintenance checks every three months by an accredited maintenance provider;
- The effluent disposal area remains clear from development, impermeable surfaces and unsuitable vegetation; and
- Copies of all maintenance, based on the type of system in use, are provided to the Council in accordance with permit conditions.

OWMS Installers (Plumbers) and Maintenance Providers

OWMS installers are responsible for:

- Ensuring that any plumbing work is either undertaken by a licensed plumber, or under the direct supervision of a licensed plumber;
- Only installing OWMS approved for installation in Victoria (with a current JAS-ANZ Certificate of Conformance);
- Ensuring that all of the plumbing work complies with the Plumbing Regulations 2018 the Plumbing Code of Australia (Volume 3 of the National Construction Code) and any referenced Australian Standards relevant to the plumbing work undertaken; and issuing a compliance certificate for any plumbing work valued at \$750 or more;

- Compliance certificates must be issued by licensed plumbers for specific plumbing work carried out in Victoria. A compliance certificate signed by a licensed plumber is a certification that their work complies with the prescribed plumbing standards; and
- A licensed plumber is not able to issue a certificate for plumbing work that has been carried out by someone else, except in limited circumstances.

OWMS Maintenance Providers are responsible for:

- Ensuring that they are an accredited maintenance service provider;
- Ensuring that any maintenance plumbing work requiring a compliance certificate is either undertaken by a licensed plumber, or under the direct supervision of a licensed plumber; and
- Ensuring that any wastewater pumped out of a WTS as part of a maintenance service is only disposed of at a licensed facility.

Land Capability Assessment (LCA) Providers

LCA providers are responsible for:

- Ensuring they are accredited Geotechnical Engineers or hold similar accredited qualifications
- Use the Victoria Land Capability Assessment Framework (January 2014)
- Utilise the VLCAF irrigation area sizing spreadsheet and VLCAF trench and bed sizing spreadsheet
- Are aligned with the Guideline for wastewater effluent dispersal and recycling systems (May 2024)
- The assessment matrix used for soil and site characteristics
- A plain-language statement drawing a conclusion from the LCA results.
- A clear explanation on how the proposed design, adequately mitigates the constraint(s) and that the design can reasonably be expected to perform to meet appropriate public health, environmental and amenity requirements.
- Detailed information, such as but not limited to, bore logs of the test pits and/or auger holes and soil testing results, should be included as appendices to the report.

7. Review and update

Internal staff will review this OWMP annually, and actions will be reviewed in light of progress made and any emerging risks.

The OWMP review will form part of the annual budget and planning cycle.

The full OWMP will be reviewed in 2029 (five years).

8. Funding and budget allocation

This OWMP will require the allocation of budget and resources throughout the full 5-year implementation. The majority of actions will be absorbed into the existing Environmental Health budget. Where there are specific projects, funding in the form of grants may be applied for



from the State Government and other peak associations. Additional funding may also be sought in the respective budgets for each year of the plan.

9. References

- EPA, Onsite wastewater management plans, Guidelines for developing, reviewing and updating, draft
- Regulating onsite wastewater management systems: local government toolkit, 2021
- Victorian water sources online
- Land capability assessments
- Council held GIS databases, Council records (permits, LCA)
- Data Vic (vic.gov.au) – flood mapping, groundwater depths
- Flood studies
- WMIS Database (<https://data.water.vic.gov.au/>) bore sites, groundwater catchments
- Bureau of Meteorology: Climate Data Online - Map search (bom.gov.au)
- VIC Department of Agriculture Soil Surveys
- Vicmap Elevation DEMs
- Atom Consulting (2022) *Onsite wastewater management plans risk assessment guidance*.
- EPA Victoria (2023) *Guideline for onsite wastewater management (under development)*.
- Department of Sustainability and Environment (2012) *Planning permit applications in open, potable water supply catchment areas*.
- Municipal Association of Victoria, Department of Environment and Primary Industries and EPA Victoria (2014) *Victorian Land Capability Assessment Framework*.
- Standards Australia 2012, AS/NZS 1547: *Onsite domestic-wastewater management*



10. Appendices

10.1. Appendix 1 Risk factors and Metrics

Risk Factor	Parameter		Bands		
			Low	Medium	High
Number of onsite systems in the location	Number of onsite wastewater management systems in a population centre		<10	10-200	>200
Ongoing performance of systems (type and age of systems)	Treatment type and age – number of onsite systems in each band	Secondary and tertiary treatment	<5 years	5-15 years	>15 years or poorly maintained
		Primary treatment	-	-	All systems
Lot size	Median lot size		>10 ha	2-10 ha	<2 ha
	Number of sites < 0.4 ha				All sites
Topography	Slope (%) – number of onsite systems in each band	Surface irrigation	<6%	6-10%	>10%
		Absorption systems	<6%	6-15%	>15%
		Pressure compensating subsurface irrigation	<10%	10-30%	>30%
Soil type	Soil category – number of onsite systems in each band	Surface water	Soil category 1, 2, 3, 4	Soil category 5	Soil category 6
		Ground water	Soil category 3, 4, 5, 6	Soil category 2	Soil category 1
Proximity to watercourse	Distance to watercourse – number of onsite systems in each band		>100 m	60-100 m	<60 m
Proximity to potable water supply offtake in Special Water Supply Catchments	Distance to potable water supply dam, lake, reservoir or offtake point1 – number of onsite systems in each band		>2 km	500 m-2 km	<500 m
Proximity to flood plains	Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) ¹ – number of onsite systems in each band		<1% AEP	1-5 % AEP	>5% AEP
Proximity to / density of groundwater bores	Separation distance – onsite system to bore – number of onsite systems in each band		>250 m	100-250 m	<100 m
	bore density (distance of bores to onsite systems) – number of bores within each risk band		>250 m	100-250 m	<100 m
Groundwater depth and quality	Depth from disposal site to highest seasonal water table – number of onsite systems in each band		>10 m or confined aquifer	5-10 m	<5 m
Weather conditions (rainfall)	Rainfall – number of days (annual average) with rainfall above 10 mm		<10 days	10-40 days	>40 days
Economic	Currently impacting the economy or imposing restrictive costs on Council		None	<\$10k	>\$10K
Resources	Currently requiring a lot of resource attention		Nil	Occasional issue	Regular involvement
Reputation	Currently impacting Councils reputation		None	Some	High potent



APPENDIX 2: Risk Assessment Results

Risk	Risk component	Dimboola 1	Dimboola 2	Dimboola 3	Nhill	Netherby	Yanac	Kiata
Risk of contamination of nearest watercourse	Likelihood - treatment failure	Almost certain	Almost certain	Almost certain	Almost certain	Almost certain	Almost certain	Almost certain
	Likelihood - transfer offsite	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely
	Likelihood - offsite to end point	Unlikely	Rare	Rare	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely
	Likelihood - contamination of water course	Possible	Possible	Possible	Possible	Possible	Possible	Possible
	Consequence (Human health)	Insignificant	Minor	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant
	Consequence (Environment)	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant
	Risk (Human health)	Low	Moderate	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
	Risk (Environment)	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Cumulative risk	Cumulative - likelihood	Possible						
	Cumulative consequence (health)	Minor						
	Cumulative consequence (environment)	Insignificant						
	Human Health (recreation)	Moderate						
	Environment (sensitive end point)	Low						
Risk of contamination of SWSC potable water uptake	Likelihood - treatment failure	Almost certain	Almost certain	Almost certain	Almost certain	Almost certain	Almost certain	Almost certain
	Likelihood - transfer offsite	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely
	Likelihood - offsite to end point	Rare	Rare	Rare	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely



	Likelihood - contamination of water course	Possible	Possible	Possible	Possible	Possible	Possible	Possible
	Consequence (Human health)	Insignificant	Minor	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant
	Risk (Human health)	Low	Moderate	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Cumulative risk	Cumulative - likelihood	Unlikely						
	Cumulative consequence (health)	Minor						
	Risk (Human health)	Low						
Risk of groundwater contamination	Likelihood - treatment failure	Almost certain	Almost certain	Almost certain	Almost certain	Almost certain	Almost certain	Almost certain
	Likelihood - groundwater contamination from infiltration	Possible	Unlikely	Unlikely	Rare	Rare	Rare	Rare
	Likelihood - groundwater contamination from bore ingress (runoff)	Rare	Rare	Rare	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely
	Likelihood - groundwater contamination	Possible	Possible	Possible	Possible	Possible	Possible	Possible
	Consequence (Human health)	Insignificant	Minor	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant
	Consequence (Environment)	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant
	Risk (Human health)	Low	Moderate	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
	Risk (Environment)	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Risk of catastrophic failure (Flooding)	Likelihood - flooding	Possible	Rare	Rare	Rare	Rare	Rare	Rare
	Consequence (Human health)	Insignificant	Minor	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant
	Consequence (Environment)	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant
	Risk (Human health)	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
	Risk (Environment)	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low



APPENDIX 3: Summary of Risk Ratings

Risk	Risk component	Dimboola 1	Dimboola 2	Dimboola 3	Nhill	Netherby	Yanac	Kiata
Risk of contamination of nearest watercourse	Human health	Low	Moderate	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
	Environment	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Cumulative risk	Human Health (recreation)	Moderate						
	Environment (sensitive end point)	Low						
Risk of contamination of SWSC potable water offtake	Human health	Low	Moderate	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Cumulative risk	Human health	Low						
Risk of groundwater contamination	Human health	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
	Environment	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Risk of catastrophic failure (Flooding)	Human health	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
	Environment	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low



APPENDIX 4: OWMP ACTION PLAN

Action steps	Team/ partners	Responsible person	Constraints and Risks	Monitoring indicators	Category
First Year July 2024 -25					
Increase distribution of Council education publications to new wastewater system owners, new residents/owners and real estate agents.	HSC	EHO	Budgeting / Resources / Time	Collateral	Education and Awareness
Digitalise all records for wastewater systems onto a single database - historic hardcopy information verified and uploaded to Council database.	HSC	EHO	Budgeting / Resources / Time / Technology	Single database in use	Information and Data Collection
All wastewater information is readily accessible in a single database and enables identification of areas of critical concern and confirm number of unsewered properties.	HSC	EHO	Budgeting / Resources / Time / Technology	Database updated	Information and Data Collection
Undertake data cleansing of existing information in database, to remove duplicates and removal of sewer connected properties.	HSC / GWMWater	EHO	Budgeting / Resources / Time / Technology	Duplicates removed	Information and Data Collection
All unsewered site developments are capable of adequately treating and containing all effluent on site prior to Planning approval.	HSC	EHO/ Planning	Budgeting / Resources / Time	Unsewered sites considered in planning approvals	Regulation and Enforcement
Provide input into proposed legislation and standards pertaining to onsite wastewater management or reticulated sewer.	HSC	EHO	Budgeting / Resources / Time	Input provided	Collaboration and Review
Second Year 2025-26					
Ensure wastewater management information on Council's website is relevant and easy to understand. Focus area: Sewer Connection and Community Sewerage Program Objectives Strategies Advocacy into Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water's Community Sewerage Program.	HSC	EHO	Budgeting / Resources / Time	Website updated	Education and Awareness



Collaboration meetings between GWM Water and Council regarding implementation of mandatory connection to sewer for new developments within Hindmarsh Shire.	HSC / GWMWater	EHO	Budgeting / Resources / Time	Twice a year	Education and Awareness
In conjunction with GWMWater provide communications to properties that have sewer available but have no connection record.	HSC / GWMWater	EHO	Budgeting / Resources / Time	Communicate to property owners in sewer district	Education and Awareness
Ensure retention of any secondary treatment systems at a declared property is based on evidence of compliance with EPA requirements (EPA Publication: 891.4) 3. Ensure declared properties that cannot show evidence of compliance are connected to sewer.	HSC	EHO	Budgeting / Resources / Time	Connections to sewer	Education and Awareness
Third Year 2026-27					
Conduct onsite inspections of properties without records to confirm onsite wastewater management method.	HSC	EHO	Budgeting / Resources / Time	Data about all sites is known	Information and Data Collection
Conduct annual internal review and assessment of the progress of the action plan.	HSC	EHO	Budgeting / Resources / Time	Audit conducted	Collaboration and Review
Maintain up to date and relevant wastewater specifications and standard conditions for planning permits.	HSC	EHO	Budgeting / Resources / Time	Update specifications	Regulation and Enforcement
EHOs undertake specialist training in wastewater management.	HSC	EHO	Budgeting / Resources / Time	Training conducted	Regulation and Enforcement
Fourth Year 2027-28					
Maintain accurate database of properties severed by GWMWater.	HSC / GWMWater	GIS/ EHO	Budgeting / Resources / Time	Confirm sewer district properties	Information and Data Collection
Regularly update and upload property connection data obtained from GWMWater to GIS.	HSC / GWMWater	GIS/ EHO	Budgeting / Resources / Time	Quarterly update	Information and Data Collection
Conduct annual internal review and assessment of the progress of the action plan.	HSC	EHO	Budgeting / Resources / Time	Audit conducted	Collaboration and Review
Fifth Year 2028 -29					
Regular review of plan as per legislation requirements.	HSC	EHO	Budgeting / Resources / Time	Review conducted	Collaboration and Review



Conduct community engagement every 5 years as part of review and update of the plan.	HSC	EHO	Budgeting / Resources / Time	Engagement occurred	Collaboration and Review
Review and update the plan every five years.	HSC	EHO	Budgeting / Resources / Time	Updated OWMP	Collaboration and Review