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Executive Summary

Council is the approval authority for the installation of domestic wastewater management systems. These systems include septic tanks and wastewater treatment plants that have a daily capacity of less than 5,000 litres per day.

The Domestic Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP) has been developed to ensure that the discharge of domestic wastewaters do not have the potential to create either a direct or an indirect impact on public health. To achieve this, domestic wastewaters must be disposed of in an environmentally sustainable manner.

The principle legislation used in the development of this plan is the Environment Protection Act, Environment Protection Authority's Guidelines for Environmental Management – Code Of Practice On site Wastewater Management December 2008, State Environment Protection Polices (Waters of Victoria & Ground Waters) and the Australian Standards AS/NZ 1546:2008.

The plan has presented a series of domestic wastewater studies for townships that do not presently have access to reticulated sewerage. The degree of detail in the township reports have been structured on the potential for non compliance with the current environmental standards.

Each township report includes a brief profile of the town which includes the services available, population and the number of allotments (developed and undeveloped). The township report's describe the soil profile, a water budget based on the Bureau of Meteorology data (rainfall vs. transpiration potential per month), identifies potential wastewater management treatment systems and identifies design loading rates for these systems.

For the higher risk townships, domestic wastewater sustainability mapping was undertaken. These maps utilized the colour coding or "traffic light principle" to highlight the degree of risk. A block shaded red should be capable of treating and retaining all domestic wastewaters for a one bedroom dwelling, while the amber colour represented a two bedroom dwelling, with green representing the development potential for a three or more bedroom dwelling.

The mapping has also highlighted individual and clusters of existing dwellings and/or allotments that may not have the capacity to complying with the existing environmental standards.

The plan was placed on public exhibition for a six week period from the 1st April to the 15th May 2009. A total of 37 written submissions were received from the Glenelg Community. The plan was adopted by Council on the 25th June 2009.

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Council would also like to acknowledge the excellent contribution by members of the Draft Wastewater Management Plan Reference Group which included representatives from Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority, Wannon Water, Environment Protection Authority, and the Department of Sustainability and Environment.