

## COUNCIL POLICY: WATERLESS COMPOSTING TOILETS

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Date Adopted:	22 September 2009
Committee Reference:	Corporate & Community Services Committee; 15 September 2009; (Item Number 3.6)
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Contact Officer:	Coordinator Building and Plumbing
Next Review Date:	30 April 2016
File Reference:	29/03/002; 04/15/004
Related policies/local laws/legislation:	<i>Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002</i> <i>Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Regulation 2000</i>
Related Documents:	<i>Attachment A - Composting Toilet Guidelines for Determination of Applications Submitted to Council for Assessment</i>

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### OBJECTIVE

The objective of this policy is to provide guidance for the assessment and approval of composting type toilet systems.

<b>Corporate Plan:</b>	
Priority Area	<i>Planning and Managing Growth</i> Growth and development is managed to ensure our unique region, rural environment, lifestyle and natural assets are preserved and enhanced.
Strategy	Provide an IPA-compliant planning and development assessment service that is responsive to community expectations and applicant needs, while applying sustainability principles across decision-making processes and activities.

### BACKGROUND

Composting toilet systems are designed to biologically degrade human wastes and vegetable matter to a compost-like material. As water is not used in the system, water conservation is an advantage in some locations. A suitable method for treatment of greywater must also be incorporated as part of the plumbing and drainage proposal.

The final compost, which takes one to three years to process, is still regarded as nightsoil and disposal by burial is required.

State legislation specifies that local governments control the approval process for composting toilets. It is necessary for the proponent to make application to Council for a Compliance Permit to install a composting toilet and associated plumbing and drainage works.

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

Council will only permit the installation of composting toilet systems in areas that are not currently within, or proposed in the near future to be within, a sewerage area or an area serviced by a CED Scheme.

Composting Toilet Guidelines will be provided by the Chief Executive Officer. The Guidelines will represent Council's commitment to the principles of this policy and provide the necessary tools for the organisation to implement a systematic assessment method.

The attached Guidelines will be applied in the determination of proposals to install composting toilets.

## **SCOPE**

This policy applies to the entire Scenic Rim Regional Council area.

## **DEFINITIONS**

**CED scheme:** Common Effluent Drainage system (Municipal sewerage reticulation system)

**Composting toilet system:** A facility providing for the waterless biological degradation of human waste and vegetable matter to compost-like material

**Greywater:** Waste water from a bath, basin, kitchen, laundry, shower whether or not the wastewater is contaminated with human waste.

**On-site sewerage facility:** Is a facility other than an environmentally relevant on-site sewerage facility, installed on the premises for treating sewerage generated on the premises and disposing of the resulting effluent on the premises.

**Sewered area:** is an area serviced by a Municipal sewerage reticulation system

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

Policy Author	Coordinator Building and Plumbing
Policy Owner	Manager Health, Building and Environment
Guidelines and procedures - <i>Attachment A: Composting Toilet Guidelines for Determination of Applications Submitted to Council for Assessment</i>	Coordinator Building and Plumbing

Approved By:

**SCENIC RIM REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
**22 September 2009**

## **ATTACHMENT A:**

### **COMPOSTING TOILET GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED TO COUNCIL FOR ASSESSMENT**

1. Composting toilet systems will only be permitted in areas that are not within a sewerage area and are not proposed to be sewerage in the near future.
2. The system for which approval is sought must meet the specifications of the Design Rules in Schedule 8, Part 2, Division 3 of the Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Regulation 2000, or be proprietary design approved by the relevant State Government department responsible for approving waterless composting toilets at the time.
3. No installation is to be carried out on premises or parts of premises that are subject to flooding.
4. The distance from the location of the toilet vent to any property boundary and other residences shall be not less than 5 metres, measured horizontally.
5. Where a composting toilet is provided, greywater from other waste fixtures within the building must be treated and disposed in an approved manner.
6. Council may revoke the permit and require the removal of the composting toilet system and the installation of a conventional on-site sewerage facility, should the composting toilet system fail to meet reasonable health and hygiene standards when in use.
7. Council may, at its discretion, alter, amend or impose new conditions upon an approval issued in accordance with this policy to ensure that reasonable health and hygiene standards are met.
8. Composting toilet systems, where approved, will be subject to the following conditions:
  - a. Should a sewerage or CED scheme be installed at some future time, the approval for the composting toilet will be revoked and the owner will be required to convert and connect to the sewerage or CED scheme.
  - b. Installation shall comply with the conditions of approval.
  - c. The unit must be operated at all times in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, except as herein amended by these conditions.
  - d. Council may from time to time require alteration, improvements or maintenance works to be made to the system, and if such works are not completed within the time specified, the permit may be revoked.
  - e. The unit shall be made available for inspection by the relevant Council Officer, on request.
  - f. Disposal of the composted material must be by burial with not less than 150mm soil cover. The area for disposal shall be located a minimum distance of five (5) metres away from the property boundaries and underground water storages and be kept clear of vegetable gardens. Waterproof gloves should be worn when handling the contents of the unit.
  - g. The unit supplier shall place a notice in a visible position, with diagrammatic instructions for the proper disposal of compost material. Such notice shall be made of a durable plastic
  - h. Where the permit is revoked the owner shall seek approval for, and install an acceptable alternative system of effluent disposal. In such situations, occupation of the premises shall cease unless a chemical toilet is temporarily provided on site for up to a maximum of three (3) months.

**Approved By:**

**SCENIC RIM REGIONAL COUNCIL  
22 September 2009**