

NORTH PINE CATCHMENT ON-SITE WASTEWATER RISK MITIGATION PILOT PROJECT

FACTSHEET

JULY 2024 - Home Wastewater Improvements Grants Program

To continue to protect our region's natural beauty on behalf of the communities we serve, Council has undertaken several initiatives. One focus is on the health and resilience of our drinking water catchments and the long-term health of the receiving waters.

Council has partnered with Seqwater as part of this initiative, starting with water quality in the North Pine Catchment. As part of this partnership, Seqwater and Council are providing grants to eligible property owners to replace or repair their On-site Sewerage Facility (OSF) in Rush Creek, Armstrong Creek and Kobble Creek. These grants will help eligible property owners satisfy their responsibilities in maintaining these facilities in turn maintaining healthy environments in the region, as well as potentially enhancing their living arrangements and protecting the value of their properties.

This pilot project aims to reduce the risk of waterway contamination by assisting the owners of properties that are **not** connected to the town sewer network with the correct operation and maintenance of their OSF, even if they are not eligible for the grants.

OSF operation is important

When properly designed, installed, and maintained, an OSF treats household wastewater (sewage and greywater) for safe disposal onto the property. An OSF that is not working correctly can cause odours, attract vermin and insects, and pose a risk to public health and the environment.

Poorly managed OSF can impact our waterways by:

- increasing nutrient levels that promote the growth of algae and aquatic weeds. This can

- reduce oxygen in the water and negatively impact aquatic life.
- discharging pathogenic organisms, including viruses and bacteria, such as *Escherichia coli* (E. coli)
- contaminating groundwater.

These can negatively affect how the water is used for drinking, recreation, and commercial purposes.

Rush Creek, Armstrong Creek & Kobble Creek

Rush Creek, Armstrong Creek & Kobble Creek were selected as the focus areas for this pilot project after considering factors such as:

- OSF maintenance records
- land topography
- flood overlays
- proximity to North Pine River & other major tributaries that flow into the North Pine Dam.

Focusing on these suburbs allows Council to trial mitigation initiatives with the community to inform broader mitigation projects in the future.

Free system health checks

Council is offering property owners in Rush Creek, Armstrong Creek and Kobble Creek **free** system health checks.

These checks are only available for a limited time (04 November 2024 – 04 April 2025).

The checks will help assess if the OSF is working correctly, provide helpful tips, and are also used to confirm eligibility for the Grant.

BOOK YOUR FREE HEALTH CHECK

Phone **07 3480 6601** to arrange for a licenced inspector to visit your property.

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The health checks are not a comprehensive service and do not replace the need for property owners to operate and maintain their systems in accordance with manufacturer instructions. Individual health check results and personal information will not be publicly released.

Property owner responsibilities

Council encourages property owners to ensure their OSF is operating correctly by:

- inspecting your OSF regularly so you spot leaks, overflows or other problems early
- learning the maintenance requirements for your OSF and, where appropriate, engaging a licenced service provider
- immediately repairing any damage
- keeping records of maintenance and repairs
- installing or maintaining diversion drains/mounds around the area where your treated wastewater is released to prevent stormwater washing pollutants into waterways.

Read more about OSF at **On-site sewerage facilities (OSFs) - City of Moreton Bay**

Get more information

Council is hosting community information sessions where you can learn more about:

- the *'Home Wastewater Improvements Grants Program'*
- your responsibilities
- OSF maintenance and licensing requirements
- Council's requirements for OSF
- environmental and public health risks associated with failing systems.

You can also book a free system health check on the spot.

Have a chat with us

Do you want to ensure your OSF is safe for your family, the community and the environment, but not sure how? We can help.

Join us for at the Dayboro Sunday Markets, or at Roderick A Cruice Park, Dayboro for a chat on the dates below.

- Sunday 04 August 2024
Dayboro Markets
- Sunday 01 September 2024
Dayboro Markets
- Wednesday 18 September 2024
Roderick A Cruice Park, Dayboro
- Sunday 06 October 2024
Dayboro Markets
- Sunday 03 November 2024
Dayboro Markets

Your Privacy

Council is collecting your personal information for the purposes of your participation in the North Pine Catchment Wastewater Mitigation Pilot Project. Council will use your personal information to update Council's customer information records and to contact you about the other functions and services of Council. For more information, see Council's **Information Privacy Plan**

Next steps

Council and Seqwater will use the outcomes of this pilot project to inform future projects.

For more information

☎ 07 3480 6601

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