



Plumbing newsflash number 376

Treated blackwater reuse trials for South East Queensland

Purpose

To advise that expressions of interest for treated blackwater re-use trials within South East Queensland may now be submitted to the Department of Infrastructure and Planning (DIP).

Background

Amendments have been made to the Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002 and the Queensland Plumbing and Wastewater Code (QPWC) to allow for treated blackwater re-use trials in seweraged areas within South East Queensland. The trials are being implemented as part of the government's commitment to water savings and will help foster innovation and further development of sustainable water re-use policies.

Legislation

- *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002*
- *Standard Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003*
- *Queensland Plumbing and Wastewater Code*

Interpretation

The trials will be limited in number and can only be undertaken in approved class 2, 5, 6 and 9b buildings. There is no equivalent person or volume limits to the size of the systems that will be considered for approval.

A multi-agency committee will oversee the trials and assist in the administration and assessment of applications. The committee will be led by DIP and include representatives from Queensland Health and the Department of Environment and Resource Management.

The objectives of the treated blackwater reuse trials are to:

- gather relevant scientific and social data to enable Queensland Government to make an informed recommendation on whether on-site blackwater treatment and re-use should be permitted in seweraged areas within Queensland
- provide Queensland Government with relevant data to assess whether the regulatory framework for treated blackwater re-use in seweraged areas meets the needs of the community and protects the environment and public health.

Further Information

A range of materials are available on the Department of Infrastructure and Planning website at: www.dip.qld.gov.au to assist potential applicants in developing their submission for expression of interest including:

- the QPWC, new part 9 specifically addressing treated blackwater re-use trials



- treated blackwater re-use trial guidelines
- an 'application for approval' form to participate in the blackwater re-use trials.

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