

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **New arrangements proposed for household 'septic tank' systems in Towong Shire**

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Towong Shire Council is urging property owners with on-site wastewater management systems (commonly referred to as septic tanks) to attend one of its upcoming Domestic Wastewater Management Plan community information sessions.

The Domestic Wastewater Management Plan, currently in draft form, is a requirement from the Victorian Government. The Plan proposes new initiatives to ensure that household wastewater management systems perform in a way that minimises their impact on the environment and public health, explained Towong Shire's Mayor, Cr David Wortmann.

"If you own a property with a septic tank, or some other on-site wastewater management system, the initiatives proposed in our draft Domestic Wastewater Management Plan will affect you," said Cr Wortmann.

Some of the key elements proposed in the draft Domestic Wastewater Management Plan include:

- Implementing a program to monitor and improve the performance of existing wastewater systems in high risk areas;
- Co-ordination of a pump-out program of systems in Bethanga, Eskdale and Mitta Mitta; and
- Introducing a requirement for land owners across the Shire to pump out their systems on a regular basis.

"We encourage property owners to learn more about the draft Domestic Wastewater Management Plan at an upcoming information session," said Cr Wortmann. "Council staff will be available to discuss how the initiatives proposed in the Plan could affect properties with existing systems or what it means for future development in un-sewered areas of the Shire".

Community information sessions will be held across the Shire as follows:

Bethanga Hall	Monday 21 September 10 am – 1 pm
Cudgewa Hall	Wednesday 23 September 10 am – 12 noon
Corryong Council Office	Wednesday 23 September 12.30 pm – 2.30 pm
Eskdale Hall	Thursday 24 September 10 am – 12 noon
Magorra Park, Mitta Mitta	Thursday 24 September 12.30 pm – 2.30 pm

The draft Domestic Wastewater Management Plan can be viewed online at [www.towong.vic.gov.au](http://www.towong.vic.gov.au) or at the Council Office in Corryong or Tallangatta. Public submissions on the draft Plan are invited and can be emailed to [info@towong.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@towong.vic.gov.au) or sent by post to PO Box 55, Tallangatta, 3700 by 5pm Friday 9 October 2015.

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