

13. Questions on notice

Cr Campbell asked a question regarding the \$100 fee for the inspection of septic systems which was in the current Fees and Charges Schedule and the fact that owners of Envirocycle systems were being charged twice for these inspections, as it is a condition of their approval that they are inspected by a contractor on a regular basis. Is there some exemption in these circumstances?

The question was answered by memorandum from the Group Manager Planning and Environment who advised that there is no exemption currently available to the requirement for an inspection by Council of onsite sewage management systems that are required to be inspected under our policy. Staff have, however raised the matter of third party accreditation with contractors who undertake the servicing of aerated treatment systems, such as 'Envirocycle'. These contractors have, to date, been unwilling to accept the responsibility for inspection of the entire system, including the land application areas (the area on the property where effluent is discharged). There is concern that in critical risk and high risk sites there is potential environmental health concerns where land application areas are not being maintained. Staff are currently looking at the opportunity for systems that are located in low risk areas not requiring inspection by Council officers. It is envisaged that the homeowner in these situations will be able to self certify their treatment system with a requirement to provide a service report from their contractor. It is considered that these systems do not have the same environmental issues as those in higher risk areas. It is anticipated that completion of the review and implementing the program will occur later this calendar year.