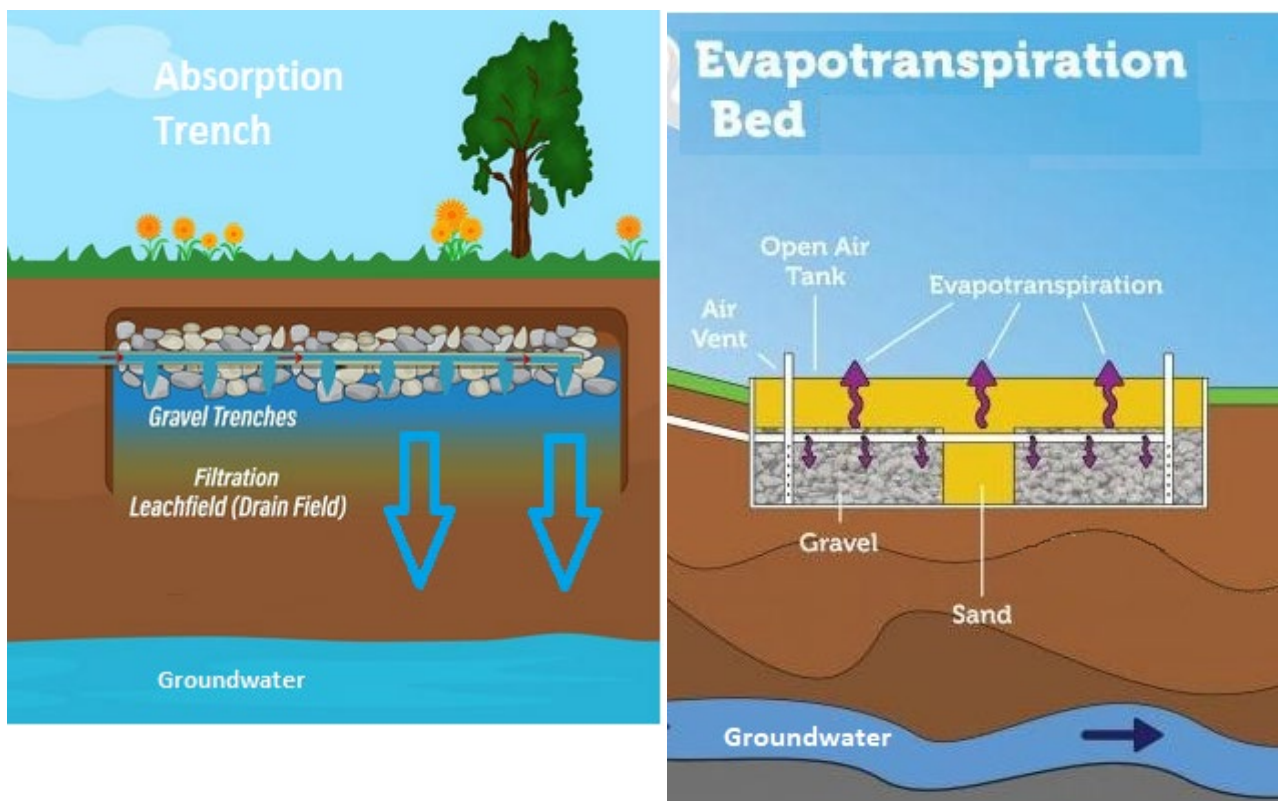


## Absorption Trenches vs Evapotranspiration Beds

Absorption or soakage trenches are used to release effluent below the surface, allowing it to seep into gravel or sand and then to the underlying soil.

Evapotranspiration (ET) beds dispose wastewater through evaporation from the soil surface and transpiration by plants, without discharging wastewater to the surface water or groundwater aquifer. ET beds are usually lined with a heavy liner, backfilled with gravel and then permeable soil on top for plant growth. Plants with shallow root systems and high evapotranspiration rates are most suitable for ET beds.



Among the proposed changes in the Water Resources Development Control Plan (DCP No 2), absorption trenches are deemed an unsuitable option of effluent disposal, while evapotranspiration beds, mound systems, surface/sub-surface irrigation are suitable options depending on physical site constraints and wastewater treatment option. This change aims to protect the soil and groundwater from contamination.

The proposed amendments to the DCP No 2 are on public exhibition for community comment. The documents can be found on Council's website here <http://www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/your-council/council-documents/documents-public-exhibition> or hard copies can be obtained from Customer Care.

If you have any questions in the first instance please email your query to [planning@nirc.gov.nf](mailto:planning@nirc.gov.nf) or phone 23595 or the Waste & Environment Office on 22609

If you are interested in attending a focus group on the proposed changes please contact [pj.wilson@nirc.gov.nf](mailto:pj.wilson@nirc.gov.nf) to register your interest

Arthur Travalloni  
**HEALTH AND WATER OFFICER**

4 August 2021