

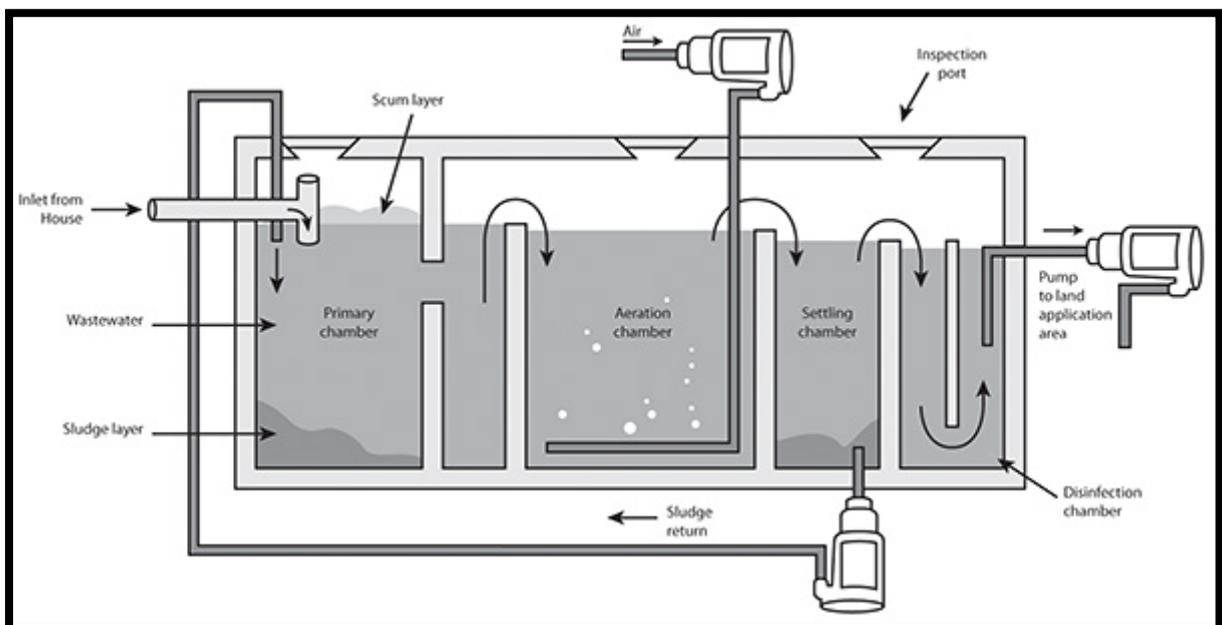
Aerated Wastewater Treatment Systems (AWTS)

Aerated Wastewater Treatment Systems (AWTS) treat wastewater to a secondary standard (a higher standard than septic tanks), so that the effluent can be used for irrigation on your property.

Wastewater is treated in several compartments. The first is similar to conventional septic tanks, where solids settle to the bottom and scum floats to the top. The partially clarified wastewater flows into a second compartment where it is mixed with air to assist bacteria to further break down solids and nutrients.

A third compartment allows further settling of solids and a final chlorination compartment allows disinfection. The treated effluent, treated to a secondary standard, is then usually pumped away for surface or subsurface irrigation in a dedicated area or paddock.

Not only will an AWTS aid in protecting the island's groundwater and surface water it will also increase the island's water security by providing the land owner with a source of water to irrigate gardens.



An AWTS is a suitable wastewater treatment option under the Water Resources Development Control Plan (DCP No 2). The higher treatment standard of AWTS compared to septic tanks allows for a wider range of uses of the treated effluent, including irrigation.

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 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 to register your interest

Arthur Travalloni
HEALTH AND WATER OFFICER

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