District Council of
Loxton Waikerie

# LOCATING AND EXPOSING SEPTIC TANK LIDS

## Pump out schedule

The Council provides a compulsory septic tank pump-out service (also known as desludging) every four years, to help ratepayers avoid wastewater issues on their property. This service is covered through rates for properties connected to Council's Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS).

## Exposing the septic tank lids

As part of the pump-out service (desludging), property owners must locate and expose the lids of their septic tank prior to the pump out. Owners are required to take safety precautions when exposing the lid with lifting and exposure to effluent.

The desludging process involves accessing the septic tank, usually via an access lid, and thoroughly removing the contents (sludge and scum) to prevent overflow and blockage of the system. Pumping through the inspection point (IP) is not effective, as it does not allow access to all chambers of the tank.

If your septic tank lid is covered by pavers, located under a driveway, or buried, it must be uncovered at the property owner's expense.

Under the SA Health Onsite Wastewater Systems Code, existing septic tanks are required to be shafted to surface level for maintenance purposes such as desludging. If Council receives a service report indicating your lid is below ground level, a letter will be issued requesting a riser be installed to finished ground surface level. The riser must be SA Health approved product, gas and watertight.

Cylinder-style septic tanks typically have rectangular lids, all of which must be exposed for servicing.

*Diagram showing the different parts of a septic tank.*




*If you are unable to locate the lid of your septic tank, please contact Council as there may be plans available to help you.*

Below are examples of buried septic tank lids where a concrete riser is required to bring the lid to ground level for easy access:







## Lifting the lids

Council's contractor will not lift the septic tank lids. Over time, lids may crack due to tree roots, aging, or deterioration from being buried. If a lid is found to be in poor condition, it is the property owner's responsibility to replace it, as damaged lids may break during handling by the contractor.