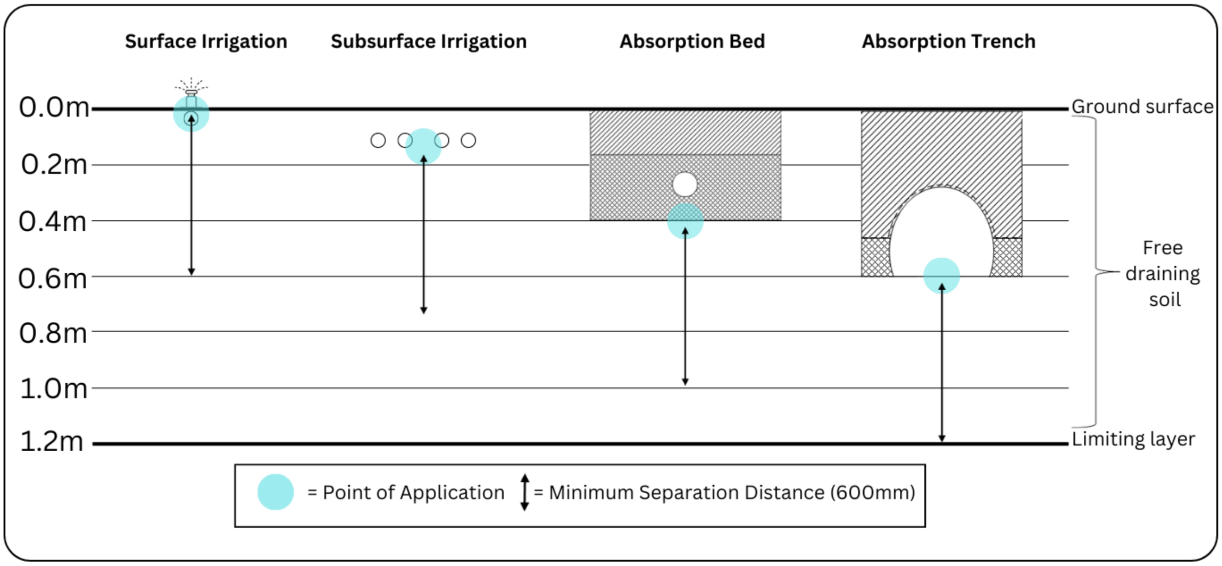
SITE ASSESSMENT AND DESIGN EXERCISE

Prior to commencing, it is important that we understand the relevance of the soil information gathered in the field, and how to interpret that information and successfully apply the methodology outlined in DPHI (2025) and AS/NZS 1547:2012 to determine:

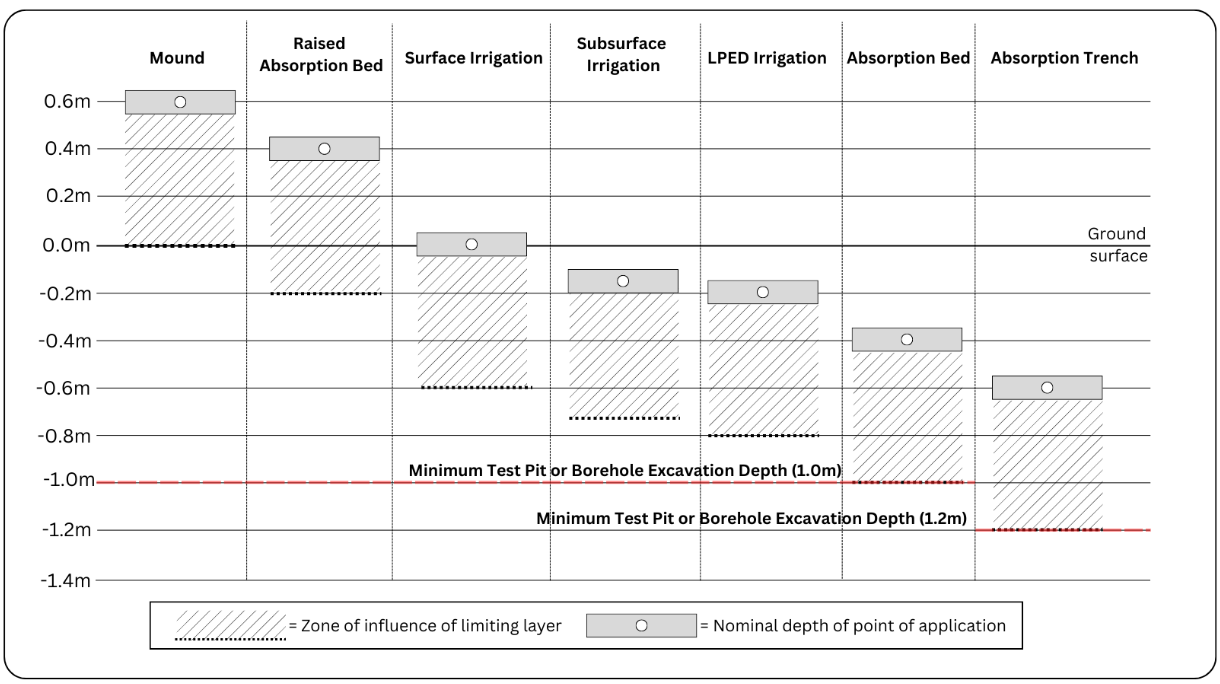
1. The most-limiting layer (or constraint) within the 'zone of influence' for the proposed effluent application system, and
2. The appropriate soil loading rate (SLR) for the observed characteristics of the limiting layer (soil horizon).

To achieve this, we must understand two (2) important concepts.

Point of Application (POA) – The point at which treated effluent is applied to the soil. This is the level of the emitters in an irrigation system or the base of a bed or trench system.



Separation distance – The separation between the point of application and a limiting horizon. The separation distance between the point of application and the limiting layer (or constraint) should be a minimum of 0.6 metre.



For this exercise we will work in small groups to complete a site assessment and design exercise for an on-site wastewater system.

<u>Step One – Interpreting the Soil Log</u>

(i) A 'typical' soil borehole log is provided below, along with a photograph of the excavated core. As seen, the core has been drilled to a depth of 1.2m and three (3) soil horizons (layers) are identified.

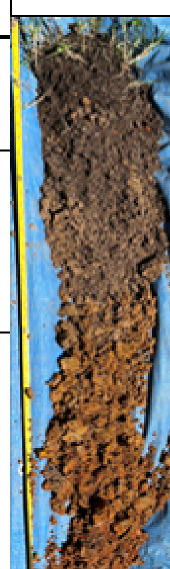
On the log, mark the <u>point of application</u> and show the minimum <u>separation distance</u> for the following effluent application systems: (a) absorption trench; (b) ETA bed; (c) Wisconsin sand mound and (d) subsurface irrigation system.

Note how different application systems intercept with the observed soil horizons and how selection of an appropriate 'limiting layer' is guided by the POA.

SOIL BORE LOG

Client:	Mr & Mrs Dirt	**Test Pit No:**	**BH 2**
Site:	Somewhere up the back	Excavated/logged by:	
Date:	Yesterday	Excavation type:	Shovel, auger & crowbar
Notes:	- refer to site plan for position of test pit		

PROFILE DESCRIPTION

Depth (m)	Graphic Log	Horizon	Texture	Structure	Colour	Mottles	Coarse Fragments	Moisture Condition	Photo Log	Identify the POA and required separation distance for each of the following LAA types				Depth (m)
										Trench	ETA/Bed	Sand Mound	Irrigation	
														0.6
														0.5
														0.4
														0.3
														0.2
														0.1
0.1		A1	SL	Moderate	Dark brown	No	2 - 10%	SM						-0.1
0.2							2-6mm							-0.2
0.3		A2	SCL	Moderate	Dark greyish brown	No	2 - 10%	SM						-0.3
0.4							2-6mm							-0.4
0.5														-0.5
0.6							2 - 10%	D						-0.6
0.7														-0.7
0.8		B	LC	Strong	Strong brown	Red and Orange (moderate)	6-20mm	D						-0.8
0.9														-0.9
1.0														-1.0
1.1														-1.1
1.2						Minor gley								-1.2
1.3														-1.3

Step Two – Preliminary EAA Sizing

The NSW Guidelines (DPHI, 2025) and AS/NZS 1547:2012 support a simple sizing approach for effluent land application systems termed the **'areal calculation'** method.

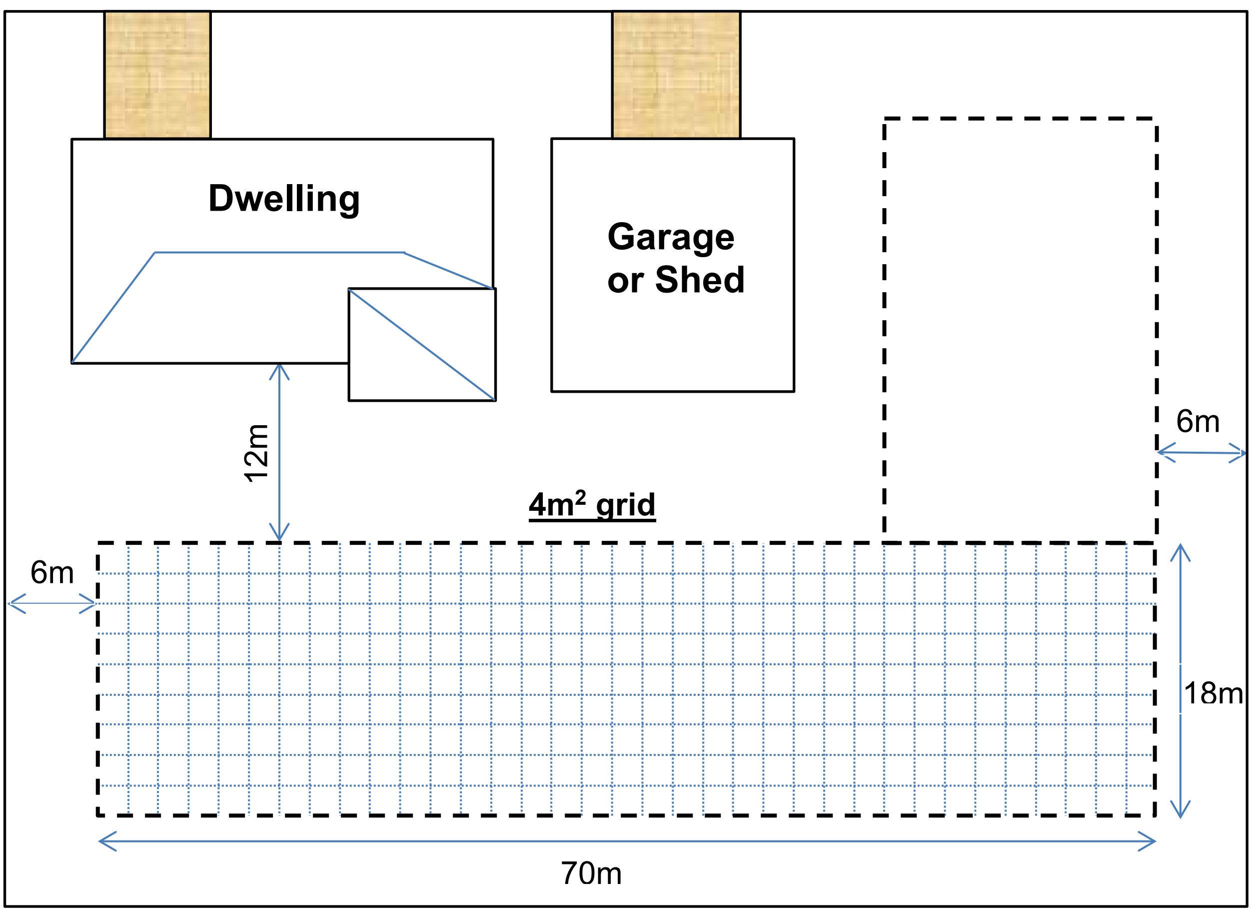
$$\mathbf{A}\ (\mathrm{m}^2) = \mathbf{Q}\ (\mathrm{L})\ /\ \textbf{soil loading rate}\ (\mathrm{DLR, DIR, BLR})\ (\mathrm{mm/day})$$

Assume that you are designing an OWMS for a new dwelling to be constructed at a Site, with reticulated water supply, and a design hydraulic load of **600L/day**.

(ii) To examine the relative land area requirements for a range of EAA systems, use Table 6-4 from DPHI (2025) (see following pages) to determine the conservative (soil) loading rate (DLR, DIR) and minimum system area required for each of the following EAA types, based on the 'limiting' soil condition from the soil log provided in Step 1.

EAA System Type	Loading Rate (mm/day)	Minimum Size (m^2)
Trench/bed (primary)		
ETA bed (primary)		
Mound (primary)		
Irrigation (secondary)		

(iii) On the example Site Plan (below), sketch out how each EAA configuration might be arranged for this example Site.



Step Three - Fieldwork

Use the **Model Site Report** and **Soil Assessment Sheet** (following pages) to record details of your site and soil assessment.

Auger a hole and lay the soil out carefully to represent the soil profile. Excavate a soil pit adjacent to the auger hole and note how much more clear a picture you obtain of the soil profile by digging a soil pit.

Use the skills you have learned earlier to assess the soil texture by hand and feel for each horizon (layer) you can distinguish in the soil profile. Compile this information and the results of the other soils investigations listed on the table (Soil Assessment Sheet).

(iv) What is the **'texture and structure'** of the most-limiting soil layer (or constraint) in the examined effluent application area (EAA)?

___

Remember: Minimum vertical separation to limiting condition is 0.6m (DPHI, 2025).

(v) Would it be possible to mitigate the limiting condition identified? If so, how might you do that?

___

Step Four – Design Conditions

Assume that you are designing an OWMS for a **three-bedroom** dwelling with detached **one-bedroom** studio on the Site you have just investigated. Reticulated (town) water supply and WELS-rated water fixtures will be provided.

(vi) What is the **'design occupancy'** for each of the buildings and on what basis have you made the determination?

___

(vii) What is the combined **'design hydraulic load'** for the OWMS using the flow allowances in Table 6-2 of DPHI (2025)?

___

Table 6-2. Design flow allowances

Residential households with standard water fixtures	Design Flow Allowance (L/person/day)	
	Onsite (tank) water supply	Reticulated or bore water supply
Wastewater	120	150
Greywater	80	100
Blackwater	40	50

Step Five – Final Design Solution

(viii) Discuss amongst your group and decide upon the **'most suitable'** OWM system for the Site layout (below) and the soil conditions you have assessed today.

Treatment System: (Primary / Secondary), Why? ________________________________

EAA System type: ____

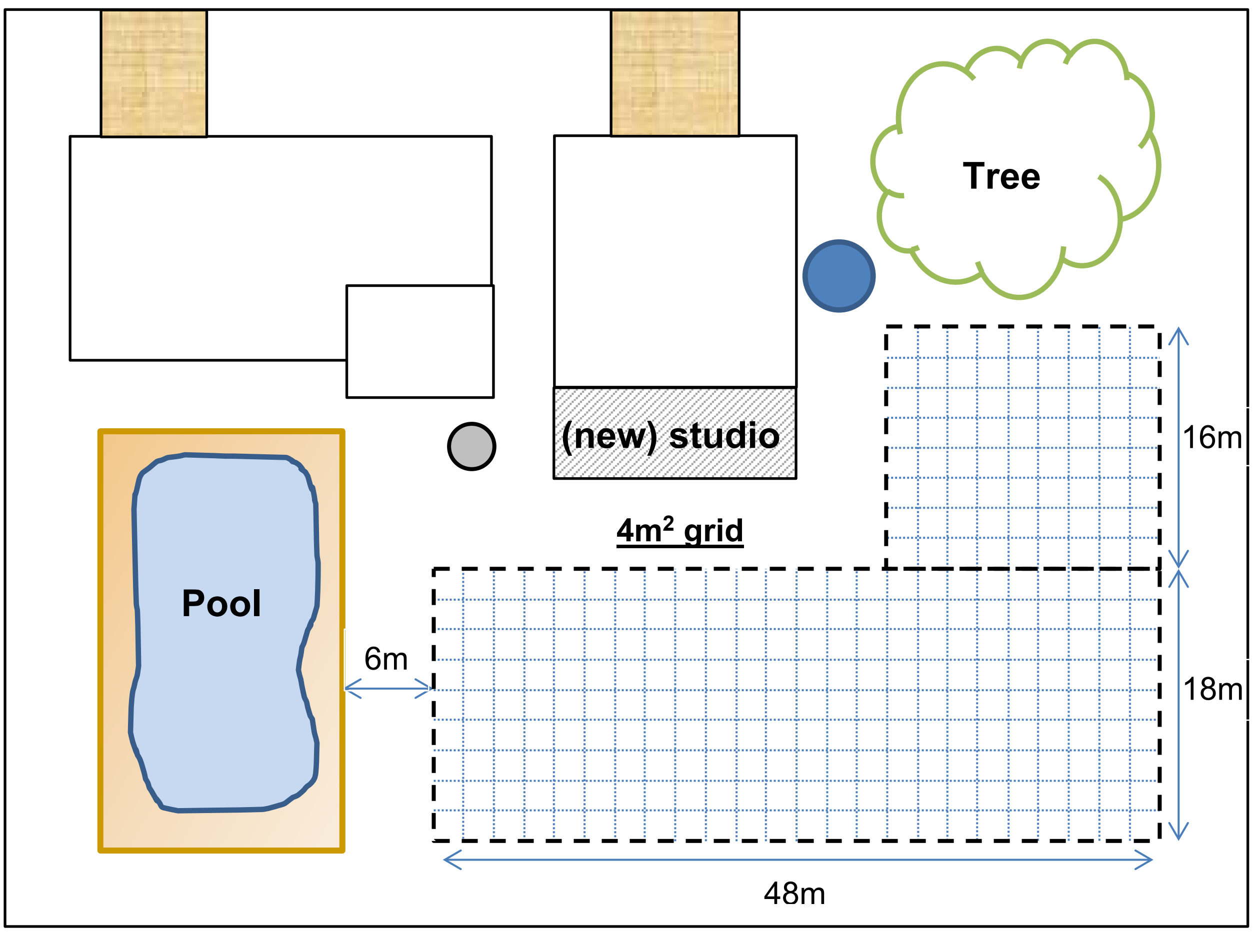
Applicable Soil Loading Rate: (mm/day) ____________________________________

Mitigation proposed: (What/Why?) ____

____

(ix) Prepare a case to justify your system selection and determine the appropriate sizing and arrangement for your system on the following development site.

EAA required (m^2): ____



Each group will have an opportunity to present their design and will be expected to explain / rationalise how they have reached their conclusions.

TABLE 5.2

SOIL CATEGORIES AND RECOMMENDED DESIGN IRRIGATION/LOADING RATES (DIR/DLR) FOR LAND-APPLICATION SYSTEMS

Soil Category	Soil texture	Structure	Indicative permeability (K_{sat}) (m/d)	Design irrigation/loading rate (DIR/DLR) (mm/day)						
				Trenches and beds (see Table L1)			ETA/ETS beds and trenches (Table L1)	Drip and spray irrigation (Table M1)	LPED irrigation (Table M1)	Mounds (basal area) (Table N1)
				Primary treated effluent		Secondary treated effluent				
				Conservative rate	Maximum rate					
1	Gravels and sands	Structureless (massive)	> 3.0	(see Note 1 of Table L1 for DLR values)			(see Note 4 of Table L1)	5 (see Note 2 of Table M1)	(see Note 3 of Table M1)	32
2	Sandy loams	Weakly structured massive	> 3.0						4	24
			1.4 – 3.0	15	25	50				
3	Loams	High/ moderate structured	1.5 – 3.0	15	25	50		4 (see Note 1 of Table M1)	3.5	24
		Weakly structured or massive	0.5 – 1.5	10	15	30				16
4	Clay loams	High/ moderate structured	0.5 – 1.5	10	15	30	12	3.5 (see Note 1 of Table M1)	3	16
		Weakly structured	0.12 – 0.5	6	10	20	8			8
		Massive	0.06 – 0.12	4	5	10	5			(see Note to Table N1)
5	Light clays	Strongly structured	0.12 – 0.5	5	8	12	8	3 (see Note 1 of Table M1)	2.5 (see Note 4 of Table M1)	8
		Moderately structured	0.06 – 0.12	(see Notes 2 and 3 of Table L1)	5	10	5 (see Notes 2, 3, and 5 of Table L1)			(see Note to Table N1)
		Weakly structured or massive	< 0.06			8				
6	Medium to heavy clays	Strongly structured	0.06 – 0.5					2 (see Note 2 of Table M1)	(see Note 3 of Table M1)	
		Moderately structured	< 0.06							
		Weakly structured or massive	< 0.06							

TABLE L1
RECOMMENDED DESIGN LOADING RATES FOR TRENCHES AND BEDS

Soil category	Soil texture	Structure	Indicative permeability (K_{sat})(m/d)	Design loading rate (DLR) (mm/d)			
				Trenches and beds			ETA/ETS beds and trenches
				Primary treated effluent		Secondary treated effluent	
				Conservative rate	Maximum rate		
1	Gravels and sands	Structureless (massive)	> 3.0	20 (see Note 1)	35 (see Note 1)	50 (see Note 1)	(see Note 4)
2	Sandy loams	Weakly structured	> 3.0	20 (see Note 1)	30 (see Note 1)	50 (see Note 1)	
		Massive	1.4 – 3.0	15	25	50	
3	Loams	High/ moderate structured	1.5 – 3.0	15	25	50	
		Weakly structured or massive	0.5 – 1.5	10	15	30	
4	Clay loams	High/ moderate structured	0.5 – 1.5	10	15	30	12
		Weakly structured	0.12 – 0.5	6	10	20	8
		Massive	0.06 – 0.12	4	5	10	5
5	Light clays	Strongly structured	0.12 – 0.5	5	8	12	8
		Moderately structured	0.06 – 0.12	(see Notes 2 & 3)	5	10	5 (see Notes 2, 3, & 5)
		Weakly structured or massive	< 0.06			8	
6	Medium to heavy clays	Strongly structured	0.06 – 0.5				
		Moderately structured	< 0.06				
		Weakly structured or massive	< 0.06				

NOTES:

1 The treatment capacity of the soil and not the hydraulic capacity of the soil or the growth of the clogging layer govern the effluent loading rate in Category 1 and weakly structured Category 2 soils. Land application systems in these soils require design by a suitably qualified and experienced person, and distribution techniques to help achieve even distribution of effluent over the full design surface (see L6.2 and Figure L4 for recommended discharge method by discharge control trench). These soils have low nutrient retention capacities, often allowing accession of nutrients to groundwater.

2 To enable use of such soils for on-site wastewater land application systems, special design requirements and distribution techniques or soil modification procedures will be necessary. For any system designed for these soils, the effluent absorption rate shall be based upon soil permeability testing. Specialist soils advice and special design techniques will be required for clay dominated soils having dispersive (sodic) or shrink/swell behaviour. Such soils shall be treated as Category 6 soils. In most situations, the design will need to rely on more processes than just absorption by the soil.

3 If K_{sat} < 0.06 m/d, a full water balance for the land application can be used to calculate trench/bed size (see Appendix Q).

4 ETA/ETS systems are not normally used on soil Categories 1 to 3.

5 For Category 6 soils ETA/ETS systems are suitable only for use with secondary treated effluent.

(Source: AS/NZS 1547:2012 Standards Australia)

TABLE M1
RECOMMENDED DESIGN IRRIGATION RATE (DIR) FOR IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

Soil Category (see Note 1)	**Soil texture**	**Structure**	**Indicative permeability** (K_{sat}) (m/d)	**Design irrigation rate (DIR)** (mm/day)		
				Drip irrigation	**Spray irrigation**	**LPED irrigation**
1	Gravels and sands	Structureless (massive)	> 3.0	5 (see Note 2)	5	(see Note 3)
2	Sandy loams	Weakly structured	> 3.0			4
		massive	1.4 – 3.0			
3	Loams	High/ moderate structured	1.5 – 3.0	4 (see Note 1)	4	3.5
		Weakly structured or massive	0.5 – 1.5			
4	Clay loams	High/ moderate structured	0.5 – 1.5	3.5 (see Note 1)	3.5	3
		Weakly structured	0.12 – 0.5			
		Massive	0.06 – 0.12			
5	Light clays	Strongly structured	0.12 – 0.5	3 (see Note 1)	3	2.5 (see Note 4)
		Moderately structured	0.06 – 0.12			
		Weakly structured or massive	< 0.06			
6	Medium to heavy clays	Strongly structured	0.06 – 0.5	2 (see Note 2)	2	(see Note 3)
		Moderately structured	< 0.06			
		Weakly structured or massive	< 0.06			

NOTES:

1 For Category 3 to 5 soils (loams to light clays), the drip irrigation system needs to be installed in an adequate depth of topsoil (in the order of 150 – 250 mm of *in situ* or imported good quality topsoil) to slow the soakage and assist with nutrient reduction.

2 For Category 1, 2, and 6 soils, the drip irrigation system has a depth of 100 – 150 mm in good quality topsoil (see CM1 and M3.1).

3 LPED irrigation is not advised for Category 1 or Category 6 soils – drip irrigation of secondary effluent is the preferred irrigation method.

4 LPED irrigation for Category 5 soils needs a minimum depth of 250 mm of good quality topsoil (see M5 and CM7.1).

(Source: AS/NZS 1547:2012 Standards Australia)

TABLE N1
RECOMMENDED MOUND DESIGN LOADING RATES

Soil Category	Soil texture	Structure	Indicative permeability (K_{sat})(m/d)	Design loading rate (DLR) (mm/d)
1	Gravels and sands	Structureless (massive)	> 3.0	32
2	Sandy loams	Weakly structured	> 3.0	24
		Massive	1.4 – 3.0	24
3	Loams	High/ moderate structured	1.5 – 3.0	24
		Weakly structured or massive	0.5 – 1.5	16
4	Clay loams	High/ moderate structured	0.5 – 1.5	16
		Weakly structured	0.12 – 0.5	8
		Massive	0.06 – 0.12	5 (see Note)
5	Light clays	Strongly structured	0.12 – 0.5	8
		Moderately structured	0.06 – 0.12	5 (see Note)
		Weakly structured or massive	< 0.06	
6	Medium to heavy clays	Strongly structured	0.06 – 0.5	
		Moderately structured	< 0.06	
		Weakly structured or massive	< 0.06	

NOTE: To enable use of such soils for on-site wastewater land application, special design requirements and distribution techniques or soil modification procedures will be necessary. For any system designed for these soils, the effluent absorption rate shall be based upon soil permeability testing. Specialist soils advice and special design techniques will be required for clay dominated soils having dispersive (sodic) or shrink/swell behaviour. Such soils shall be treated as Category 6 soils. In most situations, the design will need to rely on more processes than just absorption by the soil.

(Source: AS/NZS 1547:2012 Standards Australia)

Table 6–4. Design loading/irrigation rates (DLR/DIR) for effluent application systems

Soil Category	Soil Texture	Soil Structure	Indicative Permeability (K_{sat}) (m/day)	Design Loading/ Irrigation Rare (DLR/ DIR) (mm/day)[1]						
				Trenches And Beds			ETA/ ETS Beds and Trenches	Drip and Spray Irrigation	LPED Irrigation	Mounds (Basal Area)
				Primary treated effluent		Secondary Treated Effluent Rate				
				Conservative Rate	Maximum Rate					
1	Gravels and sands	Massive	> 3.0	20[2]	35[2]	50[2]	ETA systems are not suitable in Category 1, 2 and 3 soils	5[5]	Note 7	32
2	Sandy loams	Weak/ Massive	> 3.0	20[2]	30[2]	50[2]			4	24
			1.4 – 3.0	15	25	50				
3	Loams	Strong/ Moderate	1.5 – 3.0	15	25	50		4[6]	3.5	24
		Weak/ Massive	0.5 – 1.5	10	15	30				16
4	Clay loams	Strong/ Moderate	0.5 – 1.5	10	15	30	12	3.5[6]	3	16
		Weak	0.12 – 0.5	6	10	20	8			8
		Massive	0.06 – 0.12	4	5	10	5			5[3]
5	Light clays	Strong	0.12 – 0.5	5	8	12	8	3[6]	2.5[8]	8

Soil Category	Soil Texture	Soil Structure	Indicative Permeability (K_{sat}) (m/day)	Design Loading/ Irrigation Rare (DLR/ DIR) (mm/day)[1]						
				Trenches And Beds			ETA/ ETS Beds and Trenches	Drip and Spray Irrigation	LPED Irrigation	Mounds (Basal Area)
				Primary treated effluent		Secondary Treated Effluent Rate				
				Conservative Rate	Maximum Rate					
		Moderate	0.06 – 0.12		5	10	5[3,4]			Note 3
		Weak	< 0.06		Note 4	8				
6	Medium to heavy clays	Strong	0.06 – 05					2[5]	Note 7	
		Moderate	< 0.06							
		Weak	< 0.06							

Soil Category	Soil Texture	Soil Structure	Indicative Permeability (K_{sat}) (m/day)	Design Loading/ Irrigation Rare (DLR/ DIR) (mm/day)[1]						
				Trenches And Beds			ETA/ ETS Beds and Trenches	Drip and Spray Irrigation	LPED Irrigation	Mounds (Basal Area)
				Primary treated effluent		Secondary Treated Effluent Rate				
				Conservative Rate	Maximum Rate					

Notes

1. Adapted from AS/NZS 1547:2012
2. EAA systems in these soils require design by suitably qualified and experienced personnel and should ensure even distribution across the entire EAA to account for the low nutrient retention capacity of these soils.
3. To enable use of such soils for EAA systems, the design should ensure even distribution, typically by pressure dosing, and be sized on a full water balance. Saturated hydraulic conductivity testing can be used to confirm soil category for determination of a loading rate. Specialist soils advice and special design techniques will be required for clay dominated soils having dispersive (sodic) or shrink/ swell behaviour. Such soils shall be treated as Category 6 soils. In most situations, the design will need to rely on more processes than just absorption by the soil.
4. For category 6 soils ETA systems are suitable only for use with secondary treated effluent.
5. For Category 1, 2, and 6 soils, the drip irrigation system has a depth of 100 - 150 mm in good quality topsoil.
6. For Category 3 to 5 soils (loams to light clays), the drip irrigation system needs to be installed in an adequate depth of topsoil (in the order of 150 - 250 mm of in situ or imported good quality topsoil) to slow the soakage and assist with nutrient reduction.
7. LPED irrigation is not advised for Category 1 or Category 6 soils - drip irrigation of secondary effluent is the preferred irrigation method.
8. LPED irrigation for Category 5 soils needs a minimum depth of 250 mm of good quality topsoil.

Appendix 1. Model site report

1.0 Site Evaluator(s)
Name:
Company/ Agency:
Address:
Tel:
E-mail:
Date:

2.0 Site Information (Desktop evaluation)	
Site address:	
Local Government Area:	Lot/ DP:
Client/ Owner/ Developer:	
Address:	
Tel:	
Email:	
Site Description (General):	
Area of lot, LEP zoning, location in landscape, topography, slope, buildings, services and neighbouring properties uses:	
Proposed Development (new or renovated buildings/ planned improvements:	
Map name and scale (topographic/ orthophoto):	
Site Plan and photograph(s) of site and soils:	
Are the following features marked on Site Plan:	
Location of OWMS components (treatment tank, plumbing, EAA) and any existing OWMS components:	
Waterways, drainage lines and dams:	
Stands of trees/ shrubs:	
Bores/ wells:	
Buildings/ driveways/ pools/ fences (existing and proposed):	
Other sensitive receptors:	

North arrow, scale, slope (gradient and direction), lot boundaries, borehole locations, buffers to sensitive receptors:
Available EAA and excluded areas:
2.1 Geology (from geological map)
2.2 Soil Landscape (from soil landscape map)
2.3 Climate:
Data source:
Average annual rainfall: mm
Average annual evaporation: mm
Intensity/ seasonal variation:
2.4 Intended water supply source and design flows
Reticulated Roof collection of rainwater Bore/ well/ dam back-up
Water saving devices (confirm star rating): None 3-star 4-star or greater
Number of bedrooms:
Total design water use (derived per bedroom) (L/day):
2.5 Existing local onsite systems
Common neighbouring system:
Typical performance/ problems evident:
2.6 Discuss owner preference:
2.7 Registered groundwater bores within 100m (use/ details):
2.8 Sensitive receptors in local area (drinking water catchment/ vulnerable environments/ aquaculture/ food crops):
2.9 Hazard mapping (flood potential/ bushfire/ acid sulphate soils/ geotechnical hazards):

3.0 Site Evaluation
Date:
Weather on day of site evaluation:
Weather in week preceding site evaluation:
3.1 Existing OSMS type/ condition/ dimensions/ capacity (if any):
Existing treatment tank/s (septic/ AWTS/ GT):
Existing EAA (type/ condition/ size/ layout)
3.2 Site characteristics and limitations (at EAA)
Slope (gradient (%) and direction):
Topographic position of EAA/ landform:
Ground cover/ vegetation:
Exposure – aspect/ shading
Surface and subsurface drainage (flow paths towards waterways/ sensitive features)
Run-on and seepage:
Erosion potential (slope/ soil erosivity/ exposure):
Fill (presence/ stability):
Surface rocks (presence/ proximity):
Sensitive receptors:
3.3 Previous use of EAA and degree of soil disturbance:
Fill, compaction, contamination:
3.4 Site stability:
Expert assessment required: Yes/ No
If yes, attach slope stability report and risk assessment
3.5 Photograph of EAA attached: Yes/ No

4.0 Soil Assessment (One sheet required for each soil test pit or borehole)

Client:	Date:	
Lot Number:	D.P.:	Grid reference:
Location of test pits or boreholes to be marked on site plan (plan attached)	GPS reference coordinates	
Borehole number:		
Slope:	Landscape position:	Parent material:
AHD (m):	Surface condition:	Vegetation:
Indicative surface drainage:	Indicative subsurface drainage:	
Depth to bedrock/ hard pan (m):	Depth to soil watertable (seasonal/ permanent) (m):	

Layer	Lower depth mm	Layer	Colour (moist) & mottles	Field texture	Structure	Moisture	Soil category#	Sample I.D.	Indicative permeabilit y (mm/day)	Coarse Fragments	Other Comments
1											
2											
3											
4											

4.1 Additional field/ laboratory test results (as applicable)

	Layer 1	Layer2	Layer3	Layer4
pH: (1:5 soil:water)				
Electrical conductivity (dS/m) (1:5 soil:water)				
Emerson class (EAT)				
Exchangeable sodium percentage (%)				
Phosphorus sorption capacity (mg/kg)				

Other				

Notes

- Only the first part of the Emerson Aggregate test is required
- Soil Category refers to soil textures as outlined in Table 4-6

5.0 General comments		
5.1 Environmental and health issues of significance identified in site and soil assessment (moderate and major limitation) and mitigation measures proposed to offset limitations:		
Feature	Limitation identified	Mitigation measures

5.2 Buffer distances available to:		
Feature	Required buffer (m)	Available buffer (m)
Permanent watercourse (river, creek, lake):		
Intermittent watercourse (gully, drainage line, dam):		
Groundwater bore/ well		
Site boundaries:		
Buildings:		
Recreation areas (pool):		
In-ground water tank:		
Retaining wall/ embankment:		
Groundwater:		
Hardpan/ bedrock:		
Sensitive receptors:		

5.3 Land area available (site size - constrained areas) (m^2):
5.4 System selection
Consideration of connection to centralised sewerage system/ distance:
Type of treatment system(s) best suited to site:
Rationale:
Type of effluent application option(s) best suited to site:
Rationale:

Recommended design loading rate: Design wastewater loading: litres per day (from 2.4) Design loading rate: litres per square metre per day
Rationale:
Total land area required for system and effluent application option:
Is there sufficient EAA for the system selected? Yes/ No
Is there sufficient land area for additional/ reserve EAA? Yes/ No
If so, what additional EAA is available? m^2
5.5 Other comments/ special design considerations required:

Model Parameter	Units	Symbol	Source	Value
Design Wastewater Load	L/day	Q	Wastewater generation	
Design Loading Rate (DLR) / Design Irrigation Rate (DIR)	mm/day	DLR / DIR	AS/NZS 1547:2012 and SSE	
Void Space Ratio	-	V	1 (soil/ no storage), 0.3 (gravel media) 0.45 (sand media), 0.5 (arch)[1]	
Retained Rainfall Coefficient	-	RrC	0.7 (>30% slope), 0.8 (10-30% slope), 0.9 (0-10% slope), 1.0 (flat ground)	
Nominated EAA	m^2	EAA_N	Nominated area by user	

KEY

User input	Calculated value

Notes

1. Patterson (2006)

Monthly Parameters	Units	Symbol	Source	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
Days in month	days	D	-	31	28	31	30	31	30	31	31	30	31	30	31	365
Precipiation	mm/month	P	Median monthly data (BoM or SILO)													
Daily evaporation	mm/day	E_d	Mean daily data (BoM or SILO)													
Evaporation	mm/month	E	$E_d \times D$													
Crop Factor	-	Cf	0.4-0.9[1] Varies with crop type and season)													
Model Inputs																
Retained rainfall	mm/month	Rr	$P \times RrC$													
Applied Effluent	mm/month	W	$(Q^*D) \div EAA_N$													
Inputs	mm/month	I	$(Rr + W)$													
Model Outputs																
Evapotranspiration	mm/month	Et	$E \times Cf$													
Percolation	mm/month	B	$DLR/DIR \times D$													
Outputs	mm/month	O	$(Et + B)$													
Model Storage																
Monthly storage	mm/month	S_M	$(I - O) \div V$													
Cumulative storage	mm/month	S_C	S_M + (S_M for month prior)													
Area required for no storage	m^2/month	EAA_S	$(Q \times D) \div (ET-Rr+B)$													
Model Results																
Limiting storage	mm/month	S_L	Maximum monthly S_c value													
EAA Required (no storage)	m^2	EAA	Maximum monthly EAA_S value													

Figure A6–1. Water balance spreadsheet template

Model Parameter	Units	Symbol	Source	Value
Design Wastewater Load	L/day	Q	Wastewater generation	
Total nitrogen in effluent	mg/L	TN	Table 5-2 of the Guideline or site-specifc effluent quality data[1]	
Total phosphorus in effluent	mg/L	TP	Table 5-2 of the Guideline or site-specific effluent quality data[1]	
Design life of system	years	L	Reasonable service life of 50 years	
P-sorption soil capacity	mg/kg	P_{sorp}	Site-specific/ soil landscape-specific laboratory data or Table 4-7 of the Guideline	
P-sorption soil capacity field coefficient	%	$P_{sorp}C$	Capacity of a soil to sorb phosphorus in the field is 25-75% less than in measured lab conditions[2]	
Soil depth for P-sorption	m	D	Soil depth from base of EAA to limiting layer and/or depth of excavation based on SSE	
Bulk density of soil	g/cm^3	B	1.8 (sandy loam), 1.7 (fine sandy loam), 1.6 (loams and clay loams), 1.4 (clays)[3]	
Nitrogen plant uptake	$kg/m^2/year$	NPU	90 (good quality woodland), 65 (poor quality woodland), 240 (managed lawn), 120 (unmanaged lawn), 280 (improved pasture), 99 (perennial pasture), 150 (managed shrubs and some trees), 75 (unmanaged shrubs and some trees)[4]	
Phosphorus plant uptake	$kg/m^2/year$	PPU	25 (good quality woodland), 20 (poor quality woodland), 30 (managed lawn), 12 (unmanaged lawn), 24 (improved pasture), 11 (perennial pasture), 16 (managed shrubs and some trees), 8 (unmanaged shrubs and some trees)[4]	
Model Inputs				
Appiled total nitrogen	kg/year	TN_A	*(Q x TN x 365) ÷ 1,000,000*	
Applied total phosphorus	kg/year	TP_A	*(Q x TP x 365) ÷ 1,000,000*	
Model Outputs				
Subsoil nitrogen cycle losses[5]	kg/year	NL	$TN_A \times 20\%$	
Phosphorus sorption by soil	kg/m^2	PS	$[(P_{sorp} \div 1{,}000{,}000) \times (B \times 1{,}000)] \times D \times P_{sorp}C$	
Phosphorus plant uptake over design life	kg/m^2	PPU_L	*(PPU ÷ 10,000) x L*	
Model Results				
Minimum area required for nitrogen uptake	m^2	NUA_N	$[(TN_A - NL) \div NPU] \times 10{,}000$	
Minimum area required for phosphorus uptake	m^2	NUA_P	$(TP_A \times L) \div (PS + PPU_L)$	
Minimum area for nutrient uptake	m^2	NUA	*Maximum value from* NUA_N *and* NUA_P	

KEY

User input	Calculated value

Notes

1. Data only should be considered where NATA accredited laboratory results can be supplied to support the nutrient (effluent) quality peformance of a specific treatment system.

2. Patterson (2001)

3. Hazelton & Murphy (2016)

4. WaterNSW (2023a)

5. Geary and Gardener (1996)

Figure A6–2. Nutrient balance spreadsheet template