

# FACT SHEET

COMMUNITY  
RESILIENCE

## Wye River and Separation Creek Coffey Report Wastewater options

6 April 2016

The Victorian State Government and Colac Otway Shire have released a report by external consultancy Coffey Environments Australia into geotechnical, land capability and wastewater management options for the bushfire-affected areas of the townships of Wye River and Separation Creek.

This is a technical report that provides architects and building practitioners engaged by residents with wastewater management options to consider in rebuilding or repairing homes.

This report will assist property owners, architects and the local council to understand the design constraints and risks associated with specific sites, reducing the time required in processing permit applications and helping identify where additional property-specific investigations are needed.

The Coffey Report does not provide the full extent of information required for individual applications, as proposed building designs and site works, vegetation removal and waste water treatment can only be identified once development plans are prepared by the property owner.

### What the report found

The land capability investigation found that for the sites assessed within the study area, onsite wastewater containment is:

- very highly constrained for 14 sites
- highly constrained for 124 sites
- moderately constrained (partially able to contain treated wastewater on site) for 12 sites.

A range of wastewater management options have been identified for properties that can and cannot sustainably contain wastewater on site.

#### Effluent can be contained on site

It is recommended that secondary treatment and irrigation disposal be implemented as a minimum standard to minimise risks to human health, the environment and land stability.

#### Effluent cannot be contained on site

It is recommended that cluster systems (small groups of properties) be considered.

For properties that cannot contain wastewater on site and are not suitable for inclusion in a cluster system, a number of options have been identified including combinations of partial onsite containment, offsite discharge, waterless toilets and pump-out. In the case of offsite discharges, the options are designed to provide a higher effluent standard than exiting offsite discharges.

### What this means for you

Provide this report to your architect or building practitioner when you are ready to rebuild or repair your home.

If you have not engaged an architect or building practitioner you are encouraged to make an appointment with the One Stop Shop to assist you with your rebuilding process.

COMMUNITY  
RESILIENCE

You can also visit the One Stop Shop to use a web based mapping tool to view selected features and findings of the settlement wide assessments relating to the fire-impacted properties. Council staff in the One Stop Shop will be able to click on a map and view the relevant information for a particular site. This is a valuable tool for the council as well as designers engaged by the property owner to understand the constraints and risks associated with the sites and to determine what additional investigations are required. Conversations with community will continue.

Please note the mapping tool is not available publically on the internet, access to the tool is available through the One Stop Shop.

To make a booking, please call the Colac Otway Shire Bushfire Resilience Information Centre on (03) 5232 9400.

For more information about the Community Meetings please visit the WyeSep Connect webpage at [www.wyeseconnect.info](http://www.wyeseconnect.info).

## Further information

For more information visit the WyeSep Connect webpage at [www.wyeseconnect.info](http://www.wyeseconnect.info) or make an appointment with the One Stop Shop by calling the Colac Otway Shire Bushfire Resilience Information Centre on (03) 5232 9400.