

Media Release

24 July 2025 – For immediate release



Have Your Say on Wastewater Management

Swan Hill Rural City Council is inviting community members to have their say on the future of onsite wastewater management by completing a short survey at letstalk.swanhill.vic.gov.au.

Onsite wastewater management systems (OWMS), such as septic tanks, play a vital role in protecting public health, the environment, and our local waterways—especially in areas not connected to the reticulated sewerage system.

Council is currently developing its Onsite Wastewater Management Plan (OWMP), a strategic document that will guide how wastewater systems are managed across the municipality over the next five years.

Michelle Grainger, Director Development and Planning, said community input is essential to shaping the plan.

“Managing wastewater properly is essential to protect public health, the environment, and our local waterways,” Ms Grainger said.

“If onsite wastewater systems are not maintained, they can leak harmful contaminants into rivers, lakes, and neighbouring properties, resulting in potential health risks. We want to hear from residents to ensure our plan reflects local needs and priorities.”

The OWMP will serve as a planning tool and decision-making framework for Council and its partner agencies, helping to improve system management, compliance, and community education.

Key focus areas for the next five years include improving information management, increasing community education and awareness, reviewing and strengthening regulatory management, and enhancing collaboration with strategic partners.

Residents are encouraged to visit letstalk.swanhill.vic.gov.au to complete the survey and contribute to a safer, healthier Swan Hill.