

Decommissioning a Septic Apparatus

Decommissioning your system:

In order to decommission a septic apparatus the following must take place:

1. The septic apparatus is to be pumped out by a licensed liquid waste contractor. The contractor is to provide a receipt;
2. The apparatus is to be removed. All septic tanks, soak wells and leach drains must be accounted for and removed. **Note:** Soak wells and leach drains may be connected in series and in parallel;
3. The holes must be backfilled with clean compacted sand; and,
4. Notify the Council of the decommissioning works carried out by completing the attached form and include the pump out receipt.

Where it is not practicable to completely remove the septic apparatus, an alternative is to back fill the entire system (septic tanks, soak wells/leach drains) as it remains in the ground, with clean compacted sand. **Note:** the base of the septic tanks must first be completely broken to allow for proper drainage. **Note:** it is recommended that the septic system be completely removed particularly where there is intention to further develop the property.

Notifying the Shire of BROOME:

Upon decommissioning of the septic apparatus, the Shire is to be notified in order to keep an accurate record of existing systems within the Shire. This will then prevent delays in processing future development applications and delays in settlement when it becomes time to sell the property.

On the reverse of this fact sheet, is a copy of the decommissioning form that must be filled out notifying the Shire of the decommissioning works. This form is to be filled out by the contractor/person who carried out the works and must indicate the number of septic tanks and soak wells and/or leach drains that were removed. The form is to be returned to the Shire.

Timeframe for decommissioning a septic system:

The Shire of BROOME recommends that once connection to sewer has been made, any septic system should be decommissioned as soon as practicable, as septic systems can collapse without warning. Legally you must decommission the apparatus within 60 days of a change of use or ownership of the premises, or where foundations for a building are to be built closer than 1.2m to an apparatus or where a building is proposed above an apparatus.

If you wish to carry out decommissioning works or you require more information, please contact an Environmental Health Officer on 91913456

TO: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER
SHIRE OF BROOME
PO Box 44
BROOME WA

FAX: 91913455

DECOMMISSIONING OF A SEPTIC APPARATUS

I, _____
(name of demolition contractor)

of _____
(address)

hereby declare that the septic system previously installed on Lot No ____ House No ____
Street Name _____ Suburb _____

was decommissioned on ___/___/___ in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 21 of the *Health (Treatment of Sewage and Disposal of Effluent and Liquid Waste) Regulations 1974*, in that;

1. the apparatus was emptied in accordance with Regulation 46 of the abovementioned Regulations, and the provisions of the *Environmental Protection (Liquid Waste) Regulations 1996* (attach certification from liquid salvage contractor);
2 the apparatus:

in the case of the septic tanks or aerobic treatment units, had the base of the tank broken and/or was ... (circle one):

Backfilled in situ | Removed | Broken up and backfilled

Total number of tanks decommissioned _____
and the soak wells or leach drains were

Backfilled in situ | Removed | Broken up and backfilled

Number of soak wells/leach drains decommissioned _____
and the resultant voids backfilled with clean sand and compacted.

Signed by the Demolition Contractor or his agent on this date ___/___/___

(Print name) (Signature)