

Help shape the future of onsite wastewater management in Ballarat - Community Members

This survey is part of the City of Ballarat's MySay platform – our online space where you can find out about local projects, share your views, and help shape the future of your community. You can register at mysay.ballarat.vic.gov.au to stay informed about upcoming consultations on everything from planning, parks, and infrastructure to community services and events.

We're reviewing the Onsite Wastewater Management Plan 2025–2029 and want to hear from you. Whether you're a resident using a septic system or a professional working in installation or maintenance, your input will help us understand local needs, challenges, and opportunities. Your feedback will help guide how onsite wastewater is managed across the municipality to protect public health and the environment.

Tell us about your connection to onsite wastewater

01. Which of the following best describes your role in relation to onsite wastewater (septic) systems?

Select one answer only
☐ I am a homeowner or resident who uses an onsite wastewater system (e.g. septic tank)
☐ I previously owned or lived on a property with an onsite wastewater system
☐ I have never owned, lived at, or worked on a property with an onsite wastewater system.

Your Experience with Onsite Wastewater Systems

These questions help us understand your experience with onsite wastewater systems (i.e. septic tank systems) — including whether you use one, how you maintain it, and how familiar you are with how these systems work.

02. Do you have a septic tank system on your property?

Select one answer only
☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Unsure

03. Are you about to purchase or build a home with a septic tank system?

Select one answer only
☐ Yes – I'm buying an existing home
☐ Yes – I'm building a new home
☐ No

04. If you answered 'yes' above, please let us know which suburb is the home or new build located in?

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05. How often do you maintain or service your septic tank system?

Select one answer only
☐ Quarterly
☐ Six Monthly
☐ Annually
☐ Every 2 years or greater
☐ Never
☐ Not Applicable

06. How important do you think it is for Council to actively manage septic tank systems in unsewered areas of Ballarat?

Select one answer only
☐ Very important – to protect public health and the environment
☐ Somewhat important – but other issues are higher priority
☐ Not very important – I don't see it as a major issue
☐ I'm not sure

07. What do you think is the greatest risk resulting from poorly maintained (managed) septic tank systems?

Select one answer only
☐ Waterway pollution
☐ Odour or smell issues

☐ Contamination of drinking water
☐ Public health risks (infectious disease)
☐ Negative impact on property value
☐ Environmental damage
☐ Reduced enjoyment of property or neighbourhood
☐ Other (please specify):

Your Views on Council Support and Future Improvements

We'd like your thoughts on how septic tank systems are managed in your area, and what kind of supports or improvements would be most helpful to you as a community member.

08. What improvements or changes would you like to see in the management of septic tank systems in our community?

Select all that apply
☐ Regular inspections
☐ Enforcement of wastewater regulations
☐ Improved access to educational materials about septic tank systems
☐ Clearer regulations
☐ Opportunities to provide feedback to Council
☐ Other (please specify)

09. How familiar are you with the following aspects of septic tank systems?

How septic tank systems work
☐ Very familiar
☐ Moderately familiar
☐ Somewhat familiar
☐ Slightly unfamiliar
☐ Not at all familiar

The City's Onsite Wastewater Management Plan

- ☐ Very familiar
- ☐ Moderately familiar
- ☐ Somewhat familiar
- ☐ Slightly unfamiliar
- ☐ Not at all familiar

10. Do you have any general suggestions or feedback about the draft plan, this survey, or how Council communicates on this topic?

Maximum of 1500 characters

About you

We want to hear from the wide and diverse range of people who make up Ballarat and the surrounding region.

The City of Ballarat's Inclusion Framework guides us in listening to all voices - especially those who may not always be heard - so that the different needs and perspectives in our community can be understood and represented.

Your answers to the following questions help us ensure that everyone has an opportunity to participate. Your responses are anonymous, secure, and confidential.

Each question includes a "Prefer not to say" option.

11. Which of the following best describes you?

Select one answer only

- ☐ Man
- ☐ Woman
- ☐ Non-binary
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Self describe

12. Please select your age group

Select one answer only
☐ Under 12
☐ 12 to 25
☐ 26 to 35
☐ 36 to 45
☐ 46 to 55
☐ 56 to 65
☐ 66 to 75
☐ 76 to 85
☐ 86+
☐ Prefer not to say

13. Do any of the following apply to you?

Select all that apply
☐ I identify as LGBTQIA+
☐ I am Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
☐ I am a person with disability
☐ I am from a culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) background
☐ I have a low income (e.g. I earn less than \$650 per week, receive a government pension or allowance, or hold a Health Care Card)
☐ Prefer not to say
☐ None of the above