

Risk Categories

The final determination of a risk category of a premise is dependent on an assessment of the combined effects of relevant factors on-site. The relevant factors include those listed under the following headings low, medium, and high and they should be used as an indicator of the risk rather than a prescriptive list.

Low risk – 10 Year Inspection Period - installations may include those installations which are:

1. Operated efficiently and
2. Located so that the effluent disposal area is at least 100 metres from any permanent surface water and
3. Located so that the effluent disposal area is located at least 250 metres from a domestic ground water bore or well used for a domestic water supply and
4. Operated in accordance with any condition imposed by Council in its approval to install and
5. Located so that the effluent disposal area is at least 40 metres from any other waters and
6. Not located in an area with a known high water table ie less than 1 metre to the base of the system and
7. Services a single dwelling with not more than 10 people.
8. Not connected to town water

Medium risk – 5 Year Inspection Period- installations may include those installations which are:

1. Operated in accordance with performance objectives and any conditions imposed by Council as part of approval to install and
2. Located so that the effluent disposal area is at least 100 metres from surface waters and 40 metres from other waters and
3. Not located in an area with a high water table and
4. Located to comply with buffer distances in Appendix 2 and
5. Servicing one household with up to 10 people

High risk – 3 Year Inspection Period- installations may include those installations which are:

1. Located so that the effluent disposal area is within 100 metres of permanent water course or 40 metres of other waters or
2. Systems not operated in accordance with performance objectives or installation details imposed by Council (eg failing systems) or
3. Located in areas of high water table < 1m or
4. Located so that buffer distances to dwelling and boundaries outlined in Appendix 1 not achieved or
5. Services more than one dwelling or more than 10 people or
6. Located within 250 metres of groundwater bore used for domestic supply.
7. Connected to town water

High risk – 1 Year (Annual) Inspection Period- installations may include those installations which are:

1. Operating as a 'Commercial Premises' within the 'High Risk – 3 Year Inspection' Category.
2. Operating a 'Large Residential' (Not considered to be Domestic or Single Dwellings) OSM System within the 'High Risk – 3 Year Inspection' Category.
3. Operating a 'Caravan Park or School' within the 'High Risk – 3 Year Inspection' Category.
4. Located within the catchment area of the Nymboida Weir (Clarence Valley Council Potable water supply).
5. Commercial premises, Large residential premises, Caravan parks or Schools operating OSM systems within close proximity to a permanent river or watercourse or environmentally sensitive area.