

About the Plan

1. Q. What is an On-Site Effluent Treatment System?

A. An On-Site Effluent Treatment (OSET) System collects and treats the wastewater from your household (toilet, kitchen, bathroom and laundry). It also refers to the processes that take place inside the OSET system and how the effluent is applied to the soil for further treatment.

2. Q. What is the OSET Plan?

A. The On-Site Effluent Treatment Regional Plan sets out the policies and rules around how domestic wastewater can be suitably disposed of on a property and manages the effects of the wastewater on water quality. We have incorporated best practice, provided additional disposal options and guidance to provide certainty about what is required and when.

3. Q. How might the OSET Plan affect me?

A. If you are connected to a sewerage reticulation system (often called reticulation), the OSET Plan does not affect you.

The OSET Plan sets out the standards and rules which individual property owners must meet when discharging wastewater onto, or into, the soil on their property. If you have an onsite treatment system then the plan may affect you as you will need to meet these standards, which means you may need to make some changes and upgrade your system.

You need to check that your OSET system is regularly cleaned out and inspected (about every three years) to make sure that it meets the Plan's requirements and standards.

Sewage reticulation

Sewage reticulation is the system of pipes that are used to transport sewage from a property to a sewage treatment plant.

4. Q. Some communities will be connected to a reticulated waste water system. What does this mean and when will I know about it?

A. Your local District Council will decide which communities will be reticulated. This is usually based on a Health Impact Assessment which the District Council will carry out. The District Council will also decide which system will be used, connection fees and completion date.

5. Q. If my community is reticulated, do I need to connect?

A. Yes. This is a requirement of the Local Government Act 1974 (section 459). The proposed change to the OSET Plan includes a requirement that if you are in a Reticulated Zone, then you will no longer be permitted to discharge your household effluent using an OSET system.

6. Q. I have a resource consent for my OSET system. Do I need to connect to reticulation before the expiry date of my consent?

A. Recent consents will contain a condition that requires connection to sewerage reticulation when it becomes available.

7. Q. What is a financial contribution?

A. Financial contributions may be payable as a condition of resource consent. The size of the contribution is based on how much nutrient is discharged into the environment from an average household.

Upgrading my system

8. Q. How can I find out the details of my OSET system?

A. Your District Council should have details of the OSET system that has been installed on your Property File. It is a good idea to have a copy of these details available so that if anything should go wrong and you need assistance from a drainlayer you can make informed decisions about what to do. Ask your local District Council for this information.

9. Q. What determines what OSET system I need to upgrade to?

A. The design of your OSET system needs to be based on your water supply, the number of bedrooms in your dwelling, whether you have water saving fixtures installed, the quality of treatment required for your location, land slope, soil type and method of disposal. If your property has constraints that mean that you cannot install a standard system then you will need to discuss options with your drainlayer.

10. Q. Do I have existing use rights with my current system?

A. No. All wastewater discharges must be authorised by a permitted activity rule in the OSET Plan or by a resource consent. Existing use rights do not apply to discharges. If you have a resource consent for your current system, then your discharge is authorised for the period of that consent. Permitted activity rules in the OSET Plan may specify a date when the OSET systems will lose their authorisation.

Further information

11. Q. I still have questions/am unsure of this information. Where can I find out more?

A. Contact Bay of Plenty Regional Council **Freephone 0800 884 880** and ask for **Terry Long** (Senior Project Implementation Officer) or visit **www.boprc.govt.nz/osef**.

OSET Maintenance Zones and Reticulation Zones



Identify your area below to see what type of zone you are in and how that may affect you:

Community	Zone type	Action
Western Bay		
Ongare Point Te Puna	Maintenance Zones	By 1 December 2015 you will be required to either; connect to reticulation, install an Aerated Wastewater Treatment System, upgrade your septic tank to a minimum standard or obtain a consent. You will also need to regularly maintain your septic tank and have it pumped out every three years. If a system is not approved, an upgrade may be required to bring the system up to a minimum standard or resource consent will be required.
Tanners Point	Maintenance Zone	You need to regularly maintain your septic tank and have it pumped out every three years. You may be required to bring the system up to minimum standard or a resource consent will be required.
Eastern Bay		
Matatā	Confirmed Reticulation Zone	Reticulation will be provided for this community. When it is available you must connect.
Bryans Beach	Maintenance Zone	You need to regularly maintain your septic tank and have it pumped out every three years. You may be required to bring the system up to minimum standard or a resource consent will be required
Rotorua Lakes		
200 metres from any lake edge (13 Rotorua Lakes)	Not in a Maintenance Zone or Reticulation Zone	If reticulation is or will be provided you must connect. Otherwise by 1 December 2014 you will be required to either; install an Aerated Wastewater Treatment System with Nutrient Reducing capabilities or obtain a resource consent.
Ōkaro Rotorua Okareka	Maintenance Zones and Reticulation Zones and wider catchments of these lakes	If reticulation is or will be provided you must connect. Otherwise by 1 December 2014 you will be required to either; install an Aerated Wastewater Treatment System with Nutrient Reducing capabilities or obtain a resource consent.
Rotoehu Rotomā	Maintenance Zones, Reticulation Zones, wider Rotoehu catchment	If reticulation is or will be provided you must connect. Otherwise by 1 December 2016 you will be required to either; install an Aerated Wastewater Treatment System with Nutrient Reducing capabilities or obtain a resource consent.
Tarawera	Maintenance Zone and Reticulation Zone	If reticulation is or will be provided you must connect. Otherwise by 1 December 2015 you will be required to either; install an Aerated Wastewater Treatment System with Nutrient Reducing capabilities or obtain a resource consent.
Mamaku township	Maintenance Zone and Reticulation Zone	If reticulation is or will be provided you must connect. Otherwise by 1 December 2018 you will be required to either; install an Aerated Wastewater Treatment System with Nutrient Reducing capabilities or obtain a resource consent.
Property that is MORE than 2 hectares inside the Rotorua catchments	N/A	If your property has been benchmarked under the Regional Water and Land Plan you will not be required to manage nutrients from your system under the On-Site Effluent Treatment Plan but will still need to comply with general requirements of the plan.