



# Lifting the lid

## What is an AWTS?

An Aerated Wastewater Treatment System (AWTS) is an on-site sewage treatment plant. The waste water is placed through series of treatment and disinfectant processes, then this treated water is distributed on lawns and gardens.

### *How to maintain your AWTS*

The effective operation of your AWTS depends on:-

- Quarterly service and maintenance by a qualified service technician at the cost of the owner
- Treated effluent not running or being sprayed onto neighbouring properties
- Power to the system is not turned off

### *Owner's responsibility*

The owner of the AWTS is responsible for:-

- Fixing the system when problems are detected
- Ensuring that the system is inspected quarterly by a qualified service technician and that the service report is sent to Council within 7 days
- Desludging the system when solid levels become high (usually every 3 to 5 years)
- Complying with Council's request for inspections or maintenance
- Ensuring compliance with your 'Approval to Operate' (license) that is issued by Council on an annual basis
- Ensuring a display sign stating "Recycled Water, Avoid Contact, Do Not Drink" is clearly visible around the disposal area

Following these simple points will extend the life of your AWTS, reduce water consumption and save you money.

For further information please visit Council's website at [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au) or simply contact our On-site Sewage Management staff on 4993 4100.