

Fencing of Effluent Field Options

Objective

To provide a practical solution to the protection of effluent fields so the performance and durability requirements of the Building Code can be achieved.

Preamble

AS/NZ1547:2012 outlines examples of risk reduction measures to prevent damage to these fields. There is presently no clear explanation of how this should be done but a logical way to do so is to fence the effluent disposal field. This will prevent pedestrian, vehicle and stock access.

Building Code

Clause G13 describes the objective, functional and performance requirements for foul water systems. G13 specifically lists AS/NZS 1547:2012 as a document that can be used as a verification method for on-site domestic wastewater management. The durability requirement for an effluent field is 15 years. Accordingly an approved fence would need to meet this requirement.

The location of an effluent field and the type of disposal system determines the degree of protection required. We believe protection requirements fall into three categories:

1 No fencing

Trench or mound – would need to be in the immediate vicinity of the dwelling. This would need to be protected by suitable planting to deter human access, ie garden or shrubbery area, but still requires boundary fencing around house garden area to prevent stock intrusion.



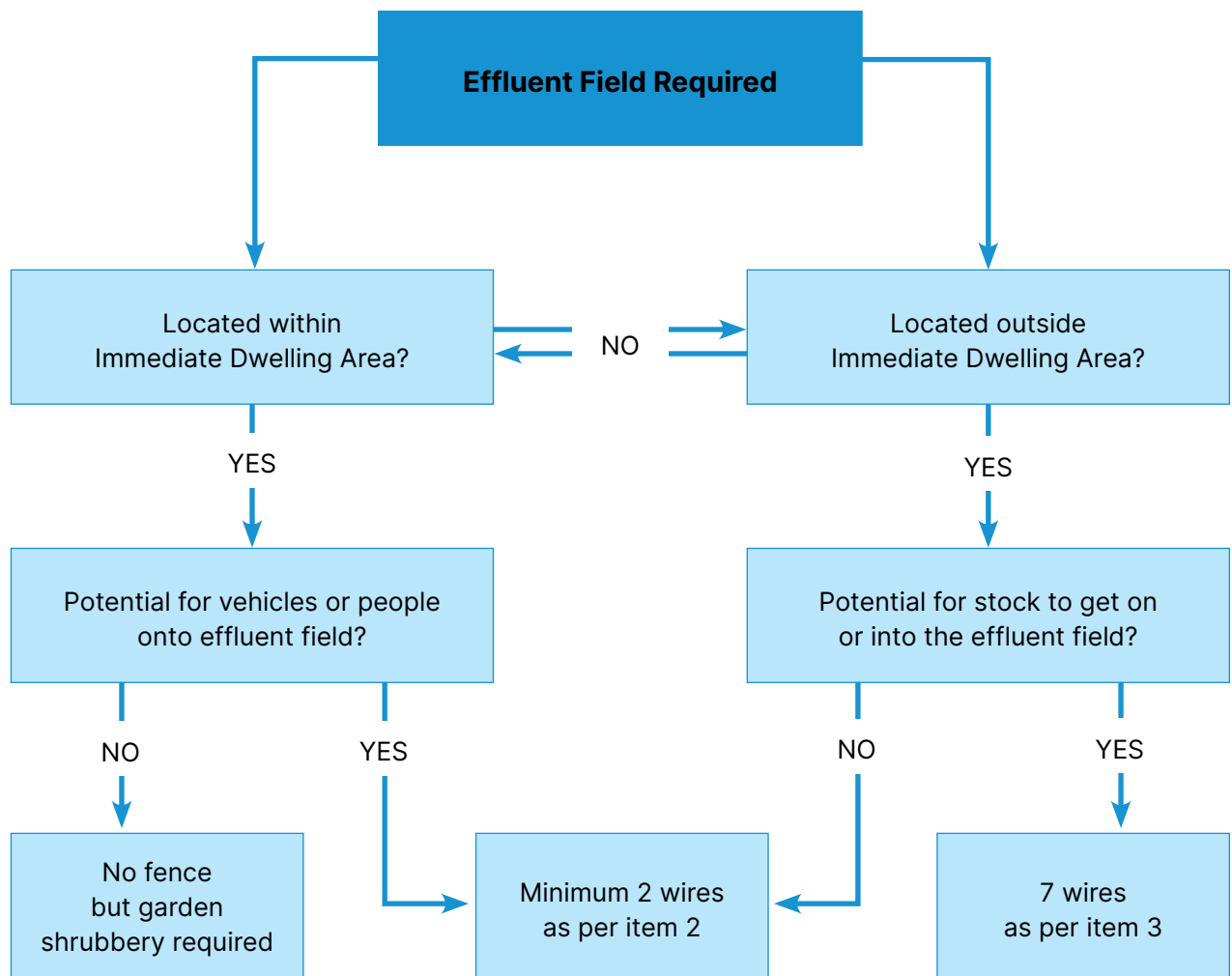
2 Fencing for vehicles or people OR combination of both

As in point one this would need to be in the immediate vicinity of the dwelling. This may also include wider driveways where the effluent field is located parallel to the drive. Minimum of two strand wires on metal warratahs with stayed timber corner posts to allow tensioning/straining.

3 Fencing for stock

Located in potential grazing areas, to be the standard type of stock fence. This is to be seven strand wires or equivalent, on combination of timber posts and warratahs, ie stayed timber strainer posts to each corner and a maximum of 10m centres between posts, with two warratahs between posts. Warratahs can be substituted with timber posts.

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