



Cavendish Onsite Wastewater Inspection Program

*Community Information Meeting
17 May 2017*

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No individual circumstances will be discussed during the forum to respect confidentiality
Please contact Council's Environmental Health Department to arrange a time to discuss individual circumstances

Process

Septic Inspection Notification letter provided to property owner



Community septic inspection information meeting



Township Septic Inspection



Septic inspection outcome letter provided to property owner



Community Septic inspection outcome information meeting

Introduction

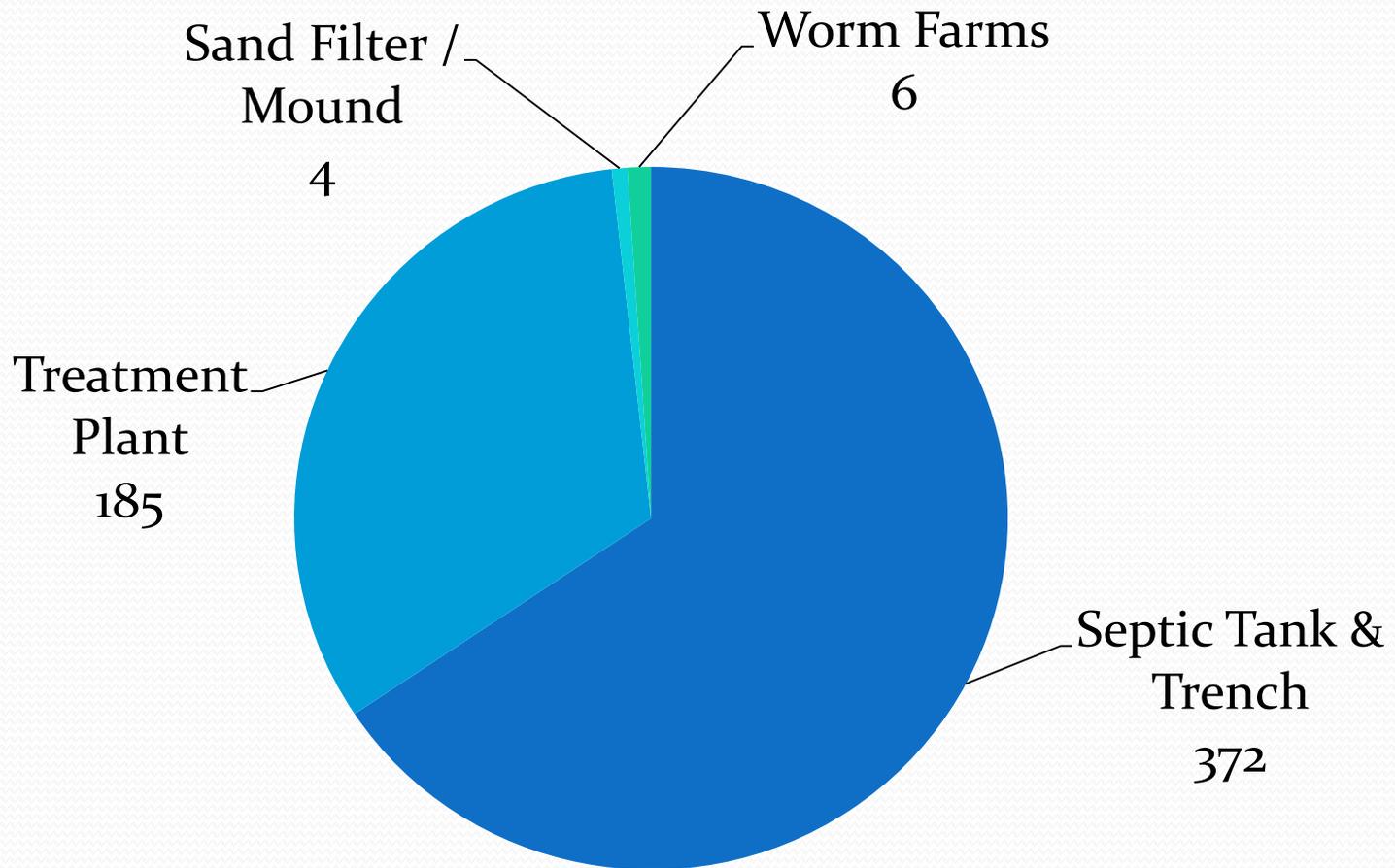
- Estimated >5000 properties within the Southern Grampians Shire have onsite sewage management systems (septic systems)
- Many are split systems (ie Blackwater enters trenches & grey water discharges onsite or offsite into drains)
- Cavendish Community Plan



Wastewater Permits Issued

Year	Septic Tank & Trench	Treatment Plant	Sand Filter / Mound	Worm Farms	Total
2010/11	27	9	0	0	36
2011/12	22	15	0	1	38
2012/13	28	10	0	1	39
2013/14	25	19	1	0	44
2014/15	22	10	1	1	34
2015/16	11	11	0	0	22
Total (2001-2016)	372	185	4	6	567

**No. of Septic Permits To Install issued for types of
Wastewater Mangement Systems Within SGSC
2001 - 2015**



Regulations

- Environment Protection Act 1970
 - **Council's responsibility**
 - Consider wastewater management matters when approving rezones, subdivisions and building construction & site plans
 - Approve Septic system installation & alteration permits
 - Monitor Septic Systems to ensure they comply with permit conditions
 - Abate nuisances caused by septic systems that have a Septic Permit
 - **Individual responsibility**
 - Obtain a Septic Permit from Council when installing & altering Septic system
 - Comply with Septic Permit Conditions & EPA requirements
 - To not pollute any waters so that the condition of the waters are harmful to public health or environment.

Regulations

- **Public Health & Wellbeing Act 2008**
 - **Council's responsibility**
 - Seek to protect, improve & promote public health
 - Remedy, as far as reasonable, all nuisances (i.e. dangerous or are liable to be dangerous to health or offensive)
 - Issue notices to persons to remedy / prevent activity which is likely or is liable to be dangerous to house
 - Take action in Magistrate Court when notices have not be complied with or the nuisances is likely to re occur
 - **Individual responsibility**
 - To not cause a nuisance or knowingly allow a nuisance emanate for any land owned or occupied.
 - Remedy / prevent activity which is or is liable to be dangerous to health

Potential impacts of failing systems

Human Health	Environmental	Social
Spread of disease (human & animal)	Pollution of surface water	Decreased amenity
Spread of minor illnesses	Pollution of groundwater	Odour
Harbourage of vermin (mosquitoes – transmit arboviruses)	Degradation of soils	Impacts on infrastructure (stormwater)
	Degradation of native vegetation	Financial for system owners
	Increased weed growth	Impact on economic development

Wastewater Management System Inspection Area



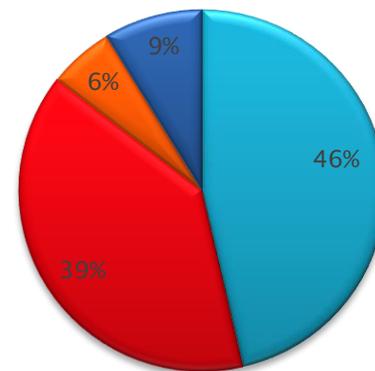
Wastewater Inspection Parameters

- **69** systems were inspected within the project area.
- Each property was assessed for a number of parameters;
- **Structural features** (e.g. Septic tank lids, condition of trench & pipework)
- **Physical condition** (e.g. Sludge levels, storm water management, soil type, bores)
- **Maintaining wastewater onsite** (e.g. effluent entering storm water)
- **Maintenance provision** (e.g. Vegetation, sludge pump out & plumbing history)

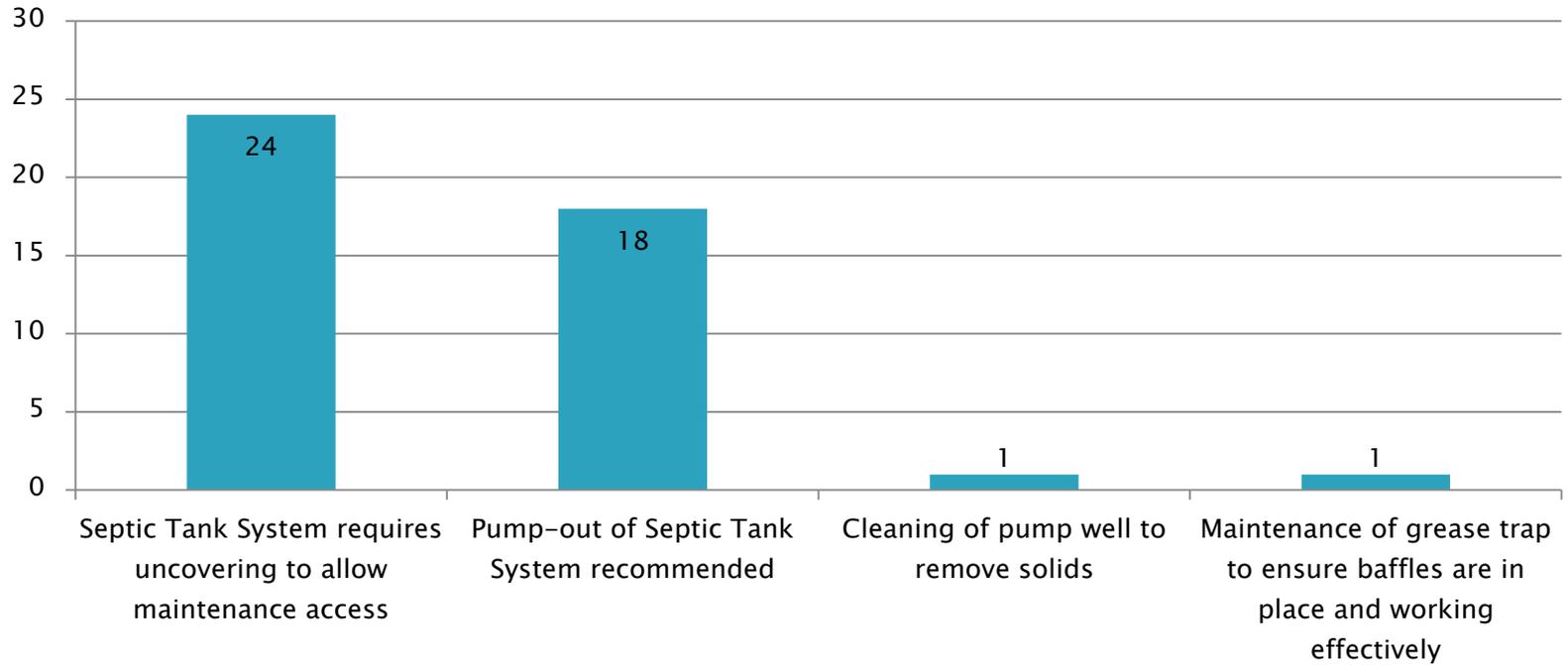
- Few systems were unable to be assessed for varying reasons, ranging from sealed lids to inaccessible systems.

Results

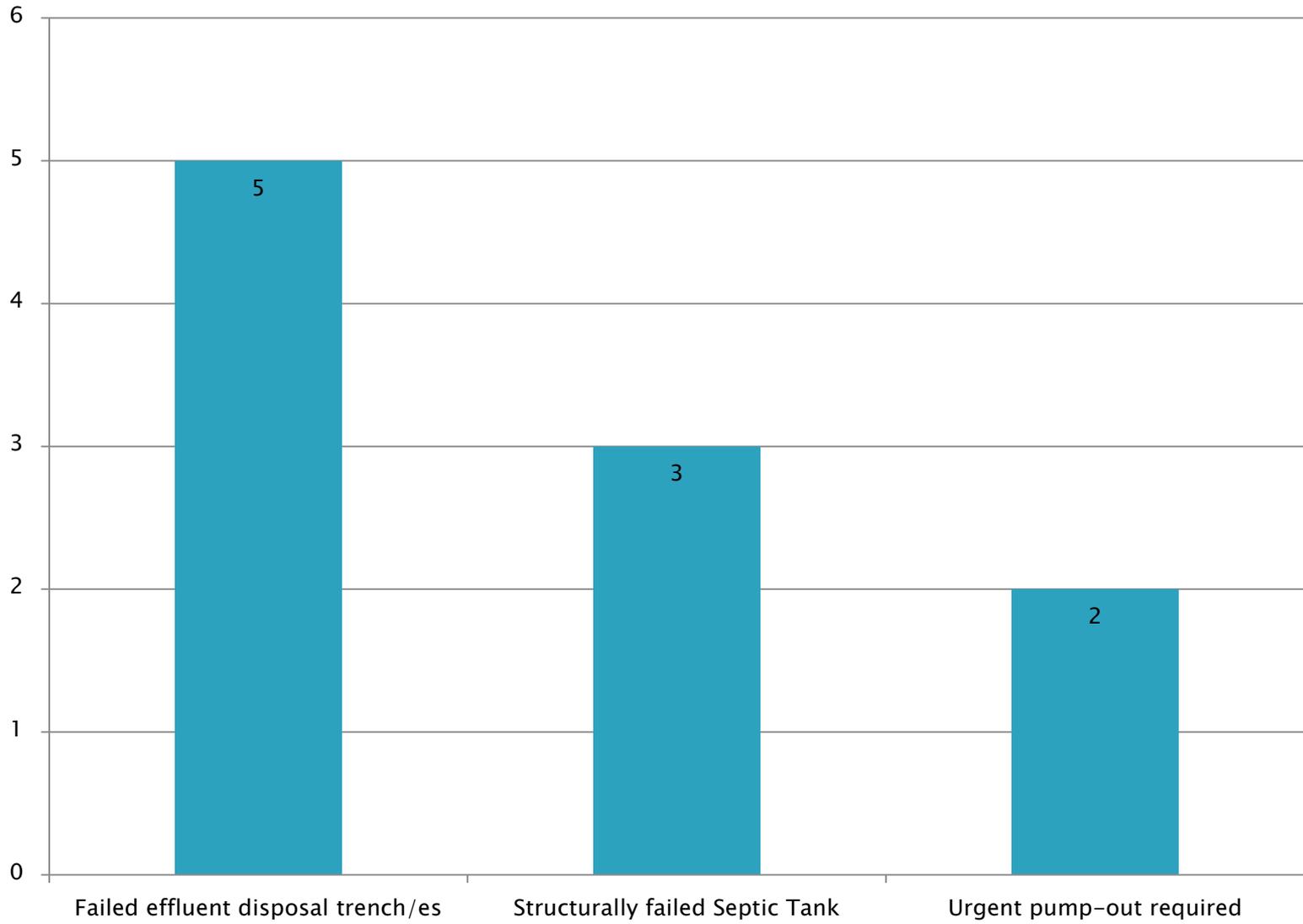
- Properties were classified into one of four categories;
 - **Compliant (Pass)**– meets current standards
 - **Minor Non-compliance (Minor problems)**– simple, relatively low cost repairs/maintenance required
 - **Major Non-compliance (Major problems)**– major repairs required (i.e. pump-out, new tank/lids)
 - **Critical Non-compliance (Failed systems)** – replacement of septic tank and/or trenches required
- Inspections indicated;
 - 32 Compliant
 - 27 Minor Non-compliance
 - 4 Major Non Compliance
 - 6 Critical Non-compliance



Minor-Non-Compliances – Cavendish Septic Tank Systems



Major/Critical Non-compliance – Cavendish Septic Tank Systems



Where to from here?

- Information collected will assist Council & community in future decision making in the management of wastewater in Cavendish.
 - Report will be prepared detailing the findings of the inspections.
 - Information updated on Council databases to reflect the presence of various systems and system conditions.
 - Continued improvements to existing systems and repair/replacement of failing or non-compliant systems.
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Why?

- The overall condition of systems inspected was as expected for the age of the systems.
- Only few inspections identified issues requiring major repairs or replacement.
- Council understands the consensus of the community is to repair/maintain existing infrastructure and therefore unless funding becomes available Council will monitor existing systems and instruct owners to complete required works.



Further Information

Southern Grampians Shire Council
Environmental Health
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www.sthgrampians.vic.gov.au
Council@sthgrampians.vic.gov.au

Environmental Protection Authority
(EPA) - onsite wastewater
www.epa.vic.gov.au/your-environment/water/onsite-wastewater

EPA Code of Practice Onsite
Wastewater Management -
Publication no. 891.4, July 2016
<http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/our-work/publications/publication/2016/july/891-4>

Legislation
www.austlii.edu.au/au/vic/

Questions

