



Recommended Buffer Distances

Site Feature	Irrigation type ¹	Buffer (m) - <10% slope	Buffer (m) - >10% slope
Buildings and property boundaries	ETA Beds	12/6 ²	15
	Sub-surface Irrigation	6/3 ²	15
Parking areas, driveways and swimming pools	ETA Beds	12/6 ²	15
	Sub-surface Irrigation	6/3 ²	15
Permanent surface waters (eg Rivers, Lakes etc.)	All	100	100
Other waters (eg. farm dams, intermittent streams and drainage channels)	All	40	40
Drainage depressions	All	6	6
Water bores.	All	250/50 ²	250/50 ²

Notes ¹ In most cases, similar buffers should be provided to treatment systems as to irrigation systems
² See Note 2

Buffers, example layout of AWTS and Subsurface Drip Irrigation.

- Notes**
- Council guidelines should be referenced to confirm recommended buffer distances. In some cases it may be acceptable to reduce buffer distances if additional environmental security is provided e.g. minimum distance to boundary may be reduced if better quality effluent, larger irrigation area or collection swale provided.
 - x/y indicates requirements for areas down / upslope of the re-use area, i.e. 6 metre buffer is required if the irrigation field is upslope of the feature and 3 m if it is down slope.
 - The irrigation system represented in this plan is indicative only, refer to Council Guidelines and Sheets 5 and 7 for further design details and sizing requirements.
 - AWTS's accredited by NSW Health typically produce reasonable quality effluent which, with the addition of an in-line filter is suitable for application through sub-surface irrigation. AWTS's are to be installed in accordance with manufacturer's specification and must fulfil NSW Health performance criteria.
 - The locations of the wastewater system components are indicative only; specific location will vary from site to site. The location of the tank must be greater than 1.5 m from any building and allowances must be made for easy access to the tank in order to facilitate easy service, maintenance and pump-out if so required.

Maintenance and Management

- AWTS's require servicing and maintenance on a quarterly basis. The owner or nominated responsible person should enter a service contract with a service agent authorised by council. A copy of the service reports must be forwarded to council.
- At each three month service, all mechanical, electrical and functioning parts of the AWTS should be checked, including: (1) all pumps, (2) the air blower, fan or air venture, (3) the alarm system, (4) the operation of sludge return system (where installed), (5) pH from a sample from the irrigation chamber, (6) Check on sludge accumulation in the septic tank (primary treatment chamber) and the clarifier where appropriate.
- A sludge-bulking test is required annually if activated sludge or contact aeration is used.
- The system must be kept mosquito and fly proof.
- Runoff diversion structures to be inspected annually and maintained as required.
- Vegetation from irrigation/disposal fields needs to be regularly harvested to promote young growth and enhance effluent re-use.

NSW Health Department System Performance Specifications

- The AWTS to be installed must be accredited by the NSW Health department and must be installed in accordance with the accreditation requirements.

Final Draft

CLIENT/ PROJECT	TITLE	DESIGNED:	DATUM:	SHEET	REV.	DESCRIPTION	DATE	ISSUED
North Coast Councils	Buffers and Example AWTS & SDI Layout	DL	na	8	1.0	On-site wastewater management systems - AWTS	10/11/2003	DL
				OF 10	2.0	AWTS and subsurface irrigation on low sloping land.	11/03/2004	DL
				SHEETS	3.0	Final AWTS and subsurface irrigation layout.	25/03/2004	DL
					4.0	Buffers for example AWTS & SDI layout	2/5/05	PDD
		REVIEWED:	VERTICAL RATIO:	PAPER SIZE:				
		DM	na	A3				
	PROJECT MANAGER:							
	PROJECT REFERENCE / DRAWING NUMBER:							
	2003G812JD7.2							

All measurements in mm unless otherwise specified.