This fact sheet provides information, in addition to the standard requirements, for plumbers and wastewater consultants when they lodge On-Site Sewage Management (OSSM) Section 68 Applications for the installation of an OSSM system that is located within the Richmond River Priority Oyster Aquaculture Area (POAA) zone of influence.

**Assessment steps**

Conduct an appropriate desktop study to determine if the proposed OSSM is within the POAA zone of influence

Refer to the POAA map (accessible from Council’s website) to determine where these POAAs are located on the Richmond River. If the property is located within 100m of the bank of the Richmond River and within 10km upstream or downstream of the nearest POAA then the OSSM system is within the POAA zone of influence.

Determine the effluent quality needed for the development

The effluent quality to be achieved is to be based on a range of factors eg the intended end use of the effluent, how the effluent is to be applied to the land (subsurface) or recycled, site constraints, sensitive receiving environment (oyster aquaculture farming), drinking water catchment area, high groundwater table, soil types, slope, registered groundwater bore location, drinking water supply source, buffers and site constraints etc.

State how you determined the level of effluent quality needed for the development

The main risks to oyster aquaculture farming from OSSM systems are bacteria and viruses. This means the method of OSSM disinfection and the sub-surface application of effluent are key considerations to minimise the risk to oyster aquaculture farming.