



## **PUBLIC NOTICE | WEDDIN SHIRE COUNCIL**

### **SEWER MAINS INSPECTION**

In late June 2023, Weddin Shire Council will be commencing the cleaning and Closed Circuit Television Video (CCTV) of approximately 10km of sewer mains. In addition, Council will be conducting smoke testing of the sewer network including approximately 350 private property's plumbing. In areas where smoke testing is difficult, an alternate method of dye testing will be used. It is expected that approximately up to 50 properties may require dye testing if smoke testing is not possible. The work area for the CCTV is located south of Camp Street and Smoke testing and dye testing will be conducted south of Camp Street and east of Forbes Street.

#### **CCTV Inspection Work**

The CCTV sewer inspection uses a camera to see inside the sewer pipelines. The purpose of the CCTV inspection is to identify the condition of the Council's sewer pipes and ensure pipes are rectified in a timely manner if they have any faults. This method is quick, accurate and a cost-effective examination of the sewer network without causing any damage to the infrastructure.

#### **Smoke Testing Work**

Smoke testing is scheduled to commence late June 2023 until the end of August 2023. Residents will be notified via letterbox drop one week before commencing work including advice as to where access is needed to their property. Council's Contractors will carry an authority to enter your private property.

Smoke testing is a relatively simple process that consists of blowing a non-toxic smoke mixed with large volumes of air into the sewer, usually introduced through a manhole. The smoke travels the path of least resistance and quickly shows up at sites that allow surface water inflow. Smoke will identify broken manholes, illegal connections including roof drains, sump pumps and yard drains, uncapped lines and will also show cracked mains and laterals, providing there is a passageway for the smoke to travel to the surface.

Smoke testing is very effective at pinpointing problems in our sewerage network, including households with a non-compliant stormwater connection.

The underlying reason to conduct smoke testing is to prevent stormwater entering our sewerage network. Sewer carrying beyond its capacity can spill into the local environment and waterways, creating public health risks and unacceptable environmental impacts.

Council's Contractor will be looking for smoke emerging from household stormwater infrastructure, like downpipes and gully traps. If this is seen it indicates a potentially non-compliant connection to our sewerage system.



Owners of properties where a non-compliant connection is found will be contacted and provided with details of what needs to be done to rectify the problem within a given timeframe.

We understand some people will be unaware of a potentially non-compliant sewer connection on their property, but as owners, they are responsible under the NSW Local Government Act to rectify the problem using a registered plumber.

The smoke is a non-toxic, non-staining and an odourless vapour that will not enter homes with a functional plumbing system, unless the water trap (the U-bend) of a plumbing fixture (sinks or toilets) is not working properly. If the smoke does come up through a fixture, it may point to a plumbing issue that you may need to rectify.

Since there is a small risk of any vapour being an irritant, people with respiratory concerns are advised to avoid direct exposure to the smoke. Smoke tests for sewers will not damage your property, harm your animals, or cause injury in any way.

During smoke testing, the Contractor's crews will blow non-toxic, vegetable oil-based smoke into the sewers at manhole access points/or at private property access shafts (if required) and monitor where the smoke escapes. The smoke will fill the sewers and leak out at possible breakage points, roof vents, relief gullies and points of stormwater connection.

Council will advise emergency services staff of the locations, dates and times of any smoke testing work.

### **Dye Testing**

A dye test is used to verify if the gutters, driveway drains, yard drains, or other stormwater collection devices are connected to a sewer that is intended to carry raw sewage only. The dye is completely soluble in water, drain tracing dye adds a strong colour to water and is used to locate and detect the direction of water flow in pipes and drainage systems. As an example, when a liquid dye is sent down a stormwater downpipe from a rooftop of a property while an inspector observes the flow of wastewater through a manhole. If the dye is present it indicates a defect or illegal connection to the sewer.

If you have any questions about the testing program, please contact Council's Infrastructure Services team on (02) 6343 1212.