

## SEWER LATERAL POLICY

**PURPOSE:** to define the responsibilities of sewer lateral pipes that connects houses to the main sewer system.

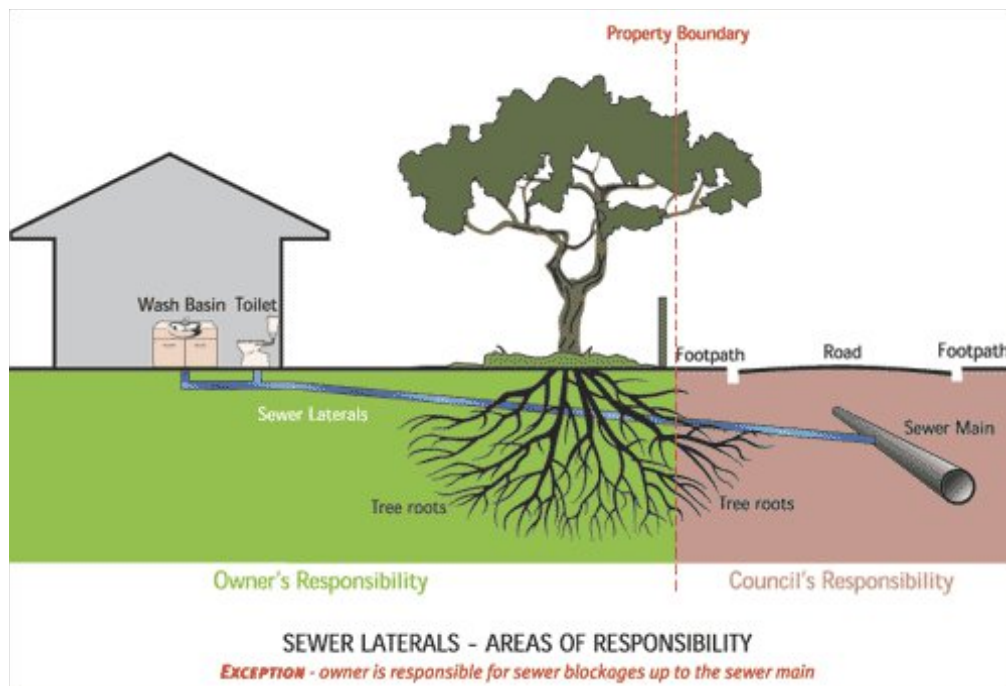
The council is responsible for the structural maintenance of sewer laterals outside property boundaries.

The term “structural maintenance” is where a blockage or pipe fault can only be repaired by excavation. In this case council will meet the cost except where it is caused by tree roots from private property.

Where a blockage in the lateral can be cleared by water-jetting or rodding, then the property owner is responsible for all costs. The rationale for this is:

1. the sewer lateral is only of benefit to the private property owner.
2. blockages can be caused by flushing inappropriate items down drains.
3. blockages can originate in the private property and be pushed through into the section of lateral outside the boundary.

The relevant responsibilities are shown on the following diagram.



What to do if drains on your property are blocked?

A blocked drain shows itself as an overflow of water usually from a gully trap outside the house.

1. Call your drainlayer/plumber
2. If the drainlayer clears the drain simply by rodding or water jetting then you should pay the drainlayer directly.
3. If the drain layer cannot clear the blockage and advises that the blockage is outside the property boundary, they should call the Council and arrange for the Council's contractor to take over the job. If it is subsequently found that

the blockage was caused by actions of the property owner, then the costs will be referred to them. In all other cases council will pay the drainlayers costs.

#### Sewer lateral crossing third party land:

Where a sewer lateral crosses a neighbouring property, and if a blockage occurs in that section of lateral, then Council will assume cost responsibility. If the problem was caused by the actions of the property owner serviced by the lateral, the costs will be referred to them.

#### Common Private Drains

In some instances drains are shared by more than one property owner. In those cases, Council structural maintenance responsibility does not come into affect until the sewer drain exits onto the road reserve at point A and for jetting/rodding maintenance at point B.

