

# Retaining Shacks commitment

## Dhilba Guuranda-Innes National Park shacks: Preferred wastewater system



This information sheet is for lessees of shacks in Dhilba Guuranda-Innes National Park, to help you understand and meet the wastewater standard necessary for longer tenure at this unique location.

Read this document **after** you have read the 'Wastewater systems for shacks on Crown land and in national parks' information sheet, which includes steps to follow to ensure you install a suitable wastewater system for your shack site.

### Why do Dhilba Guuranda-Innes National Park shacks have specific wastewater requirements?

All shack lessees must meet the requirements of the *Public Health Act 2011* and the *Environment Protection Act 1993* when selecting a suitable wastewater system for their shack site.

For shacks in national parks, the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* also applies. One requirement is that written permission from the Minister (or a delegate) is required for any activity that involves digging or ground disturbance. To do so without permission is an offence.

As Dhilba Guuranda-Innes National Park has enormous cultural significance to the land's Traditional Owners – the Narungga people – DEW is also required to comply with the *Native Title Act 1993* and the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1993* when considering whether to offer a longer tenure lease or provide consent for earthworks.

### What is the preferred wastewater system to use in the Dhilba Guuranda-Innes National Park?

As a lessee, you may investigate and apply for a wastewater system of your choosing for your shack. However, DEW acknowledges that the process can be complex in a location like Dhilba Guuranda-Innes National Park.

To help you, DEW has consulted with regulatory authorities to understand what type of wastewater system is likely to gain the necessary approvals. Based on this advice, **holding tanks** are the preferred wastewater system for shacks in Dhilba Guuranda-Innes National Park.

Holding tanks are preferred because they can be used on sites that aren't suitable for other on-site land application systems, such as in areas where there is a risk of ground and surface water contamination and high ecological value. Any existing wastewater systems that include on-site land applications systems, such as soakage trenches, will **not be approved for use**.

Note: Refer to the 'Wastewater systems for shacks on Crown land and in national parks' information sheet (referenced above) for details on removing existing, non-compliant wastewater systems, or check our [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

### What is the process for proceeding with the preferred option?

As a lessee, you will need to find a holding tank for your shack site from the list of SA health [approved products](#). Yorke Peninsula Council can assist with general queries about holding tanks, but for technical queries you will need to seek advice from a suitable professional with experience in wastewater management.

After selecting which holding tank to use, seek approval by following the steps in the 'Wastewater systems for shacks on Crown land and in national parks' information sheet (referenced above).

Shack owners need to show how the proposed works comply with installation and performance requirements outlined on Page 34 of the [On-site wastewater systems code](#). It is **strongly recommended** that you work with a wastewater engineer or similar professional to design a system to achieve this. Regulatory authorities often reject applications for wastewater systems because of poor design work and plans.

### Who is responsible for disposing of wastewater?

Lessees are responsible for organising pumping and disposal of wastewater from their holding tank.

Pumping must be undertaken by an Environment Protection Authority licensed contractor. The [EPA website](#) has an index of licensed businesses who can transport and dispose of wastewater (search for Waste Transport Business Category B) or speak to your council.

To save costs, lessees are encouraged to work with nearby shack lessees to coordinate pumping and disposal of wastewater.

## Are there any other special considerations to take into account for shacks in this park?

### Native Title

Shacks in Dhillba Guuranda-Innes National Park are within the Narungga Nation Native Title Claim Area. As a lessee of a shack in this area, you need to understand what is required of you if your shack site is subject to Native Title.

**Note:** If you are unsure if Native Title applies to your shack site, contact the DEW shacks team to check.

- **For lessees of shacks that are subject to native title:**

The SA Government is currently in negotiation with the Narungga People to renegotiate the terms of an [Indigenous Land Use Agreement \(ILUA\)](#).

This means that if your shack site is subject to Native Title, you **cannot proceed** with seeking the Minister's consent for, or installing, a wastewater system until the Native Title claim has been settled and the ILUA has been registered.

This will be approximately 3 months from the date of the consent determination recognising Native Title.

If shack sites that are subject to Native Title require a larger licensed area to accommodate a new wastewater system, further advice will be provided once the ILUA has been agreed.

The grant of a larger leased area or license and/or installation of holding tanks may trigger the 'notifiable acts' process. This means that DEW, as the landholder, would need to give notice to the Narungga People, and seek their views, prior to the licence being granted or the works being undertaken.

This process takes a minimum of 60 days and could involve further investigations including a cultural heritage survey. DEW is responsible for managing this process and will keep you informed as it progresses, which includes notifying you if you will be responsible for additional costs, like those for cultural heritage surveys or boundary surveys.

- **For lessees of shacks that are not subject to native title:**

If your shack site is not part of the Narungga Nation Native Title Claim Area, you can simply follow the steps outlined in the 'Understanding your wastewater system suitability information sheet'.

If there is not enough space within the licensed area to accommodate a new wastewater system, you must seek approval to extend the licensed or leased area. The intended position of the system **must** be clear on plans and designs attached to the Minister's consent form. A boundary survey may be required – the cost of conducting this will be at your expense.

### Protecting cultural heritage

Lessees need to consider the implications of their wastewater designs on the potential to disturb cultural heritage material in the soil. Wastewater system design should be a balance between tank size and minimising soil disturbance. Where possible, new systems should be located within the same site as an existing (non-compliant) system.

**Important note:** If you encounter cultural heritage material at your shack site during installation, you must stop all further excavations immediately and follow a **site discovery protocol**. A link to the protocol will be made available on the [DEW shacks website](#) to guide you in this process.

## More information

For further information visit the [DEW Retaining Shacks webpage](#) or contact the DEW Shacks Team:

- (08) 8204 1218
- [DEWshacks@sa.gov.au](mailto:DEWshacks@sa.gov.au)

The DEW Shacks Team aims to respond to emailed questions within five working days.