

## Sewer Smoke Testing: What you need to know

**Did you know that Townsville City Council maintains more than 1,360 km of sewage pipelines?**

Our sewer system provides an essential service to our city, which is why Council continues to prioritise its maintenance and repair.

### WHAT IS THE BENEFIT TO MY COMMUNITY?

Smoke testing is a technique used to identify areas where unnecessary groundwater, rainfall or illegal stormwater connections are entering the sewer system which can cause backups, overflows and higher costs for the community during water treatment.

### WHAT IS SMOKE TESTING?

Using odourless, non-toxic smoke and high capacity blowers, smoke is forced through the sewer pipes. Anywhere the smoke exits, there is potential for rain or groundwater to seep into the sewer system or an illegal stormwater connection. i.e. downpipes plumbed into the sewer system.

### IS THE SMOKE HAZARDOUS?

Not at all. The smoke that comes out of the vent stacks on houses or holes in the ground is non-toxic, harmless and has no odour. It does not create a fire hazard.

### WHAT IF SMOKE SHOWS IN MY YARD OR DRIVEWAY?

This could mean that there is a drain on the property that is connected to the sewer or that there are breaks or cracks in the pipe.

### DO I NEED TO BE HOME WHEN SMOKE TESTING IS PERFORMED?

Residents do not need to be home and at no time will Council crews need to enter residences or buildings during testing. Smoke testing crews will be noticeable documenting the testing, taking photos, and measuring distances.

### WHAT IF A TEST YIELDS NO SMOKE DEFECTS?

If the sewer lines are in good condition and there are no drainage facilities connected to them, the smoke has no place to go other than up the house vent stack, as it is supposed to.

### WHAT IF COUNCIL IDENTIFIES A LEAK DURING SMOKE TESTING?

Council will contact you to discuss the next steps.



### SCAN HERE

to find out more about sewer smoke testing

**For further information:** ☎ 13 48 10 ✉ [enquiries@townsville.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@townsville.qld.gov.au) 🖥 [townsville.qld.gov.au](http://townsville.qld.gov.au)