

Testing of Sanitary Drains - Position Paper

In recent times Queensland has experienced the impacts of drought conditions. The last time a major drought impacted a significant part of Queensland was from 2001 to 2002. By 2003 a significant part of the state was declared in drought conditions which was at the time, the worst drought on record.

At the time several local governments across the state implemented new procedures for the testing of *sanitary plumbing* and *sanitary drainage* installations. South East Queensland (SEQ) local governments introduced a mandatory requirement for all *sanitary plumbing* and *sanitary drainage* to be air tested with other Councils also implementing this requirement.

A residential dwelling requires between 300 to 500 litres of water to test a standard installation with some commercial installation requiring 1000 litres or more to be used.

Unfortunately, again in 2019 some regional areas of Queensland are experiencing drought conditions which has resulted in contractors having to purchase water to test *sanitary plumbing* and *sanitary drainage*.

Therefore, it is the Position of the IPIQ that local governments across Queensland should encourage the use of air testing of *sanitary plumbing* and *sanitary drainage* installations.

How does Air Testing Work?

AS/NZS 3500.2:2018 Section 15.3.2 outlines the procedure for the testing of sanitary plumbing and sanitary drainage installations.

Adopting the optional test procedures as per AS\NZS 3500.2:2018 Section 15 “**Air Pressure Test**” for the testing of sanitary plumbing and sanitary drainage installations will greatly assist areas that are drought declared towards the conservation of precious water supply whilst the drought declarations continues.

Further information about Queensland's current water restrictions can be obtained by clicking on the following web portal link; [Click Here For Current Water Restrictions](#)



Standard Drain Air Testing Kit

Standard Kit contains:

- Air drain tester
- 100mm aluminium test plug
- Double action pump to pressurise sewer lines
- Non-return check valve
- Reusable rubber caps can also be used to further bring down testing costs

Local Government Survey

Name of Local Government	Air Testing	Water Testing
Flinders Shire Council		✓
Redland City Council	✓	✓
Southern Downs Regional Council		✓
Somerset Regional Council	✓	✓
City of Gold Coast	✓	✓
Central Highlands Regional Council	✓	✓
Western Downs Regional Council	✓	✓
Brisbane City Council	✓	✓
Logan City Council	✓	✓
Ipswich City Council	✓	✓
Sunshine Coast Regional Council	✓	✓
Moreton Bay Shire Council	✓	✓
Cairns Regional Council		✓
Gladstone City Council	✓	✓
Banana Shire Council	✓	✓
Toowoomba Regional Council	✓	✓

