

Site Selection For Post-Facto Water Quality Protection Works: Targeting the “Dirtiest Dozen”

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Abstract

The legacy of settlement that pre-dates implementation of land use planning schemes and stream water-quality protection rules in rural Australia includes inappropriately sited septic tanks. For water harvesting corporations relying on runoff from private land (as opposed to closed catchments) this can be a problem. Spatial modelling using readily-available spatial data bases is shown to offer information relevant to decision makers needing to know if post-facto mitigation measures offer an effective approach to the problem of protecting water quality. In particular it indicates the scope to implement measures that are an alternative to the installation of (expensive) trunk sewerage and treatment, and/or water purification plants.