

## DEFINING MYTHS

### 1. MYTH: Place a dead possum or any animal into the tank.

In the old days when a new septic system was started up on a farm, a dead possum or sheep was sometimes thrown in to the septic tank. Septic folklore had it that the carcass would kickstart the system.

**FACT:** With normal use, the sewerage, which starts flowing into the tank provides plenty of nutrients for the bacteria to begin doing their job.

### 2. MYTH: You don't need to refill your septic tank after pump out.

Don't believe anyone who says you don't need to refill your tank to capacity with clean water after pump out.

**FACT:** The water helps to provide the right environment for bacteria to breed and do their job. Also the weight of the water keeps the tank from floating out of the ground in areas that have a high water table or springs.

### 3. MYTH: Spray irrigation from AWTs and Greywater pump outs can be discharged on fruit and vegetable crops.

**FACT:** The Australian Standard for on-site domestic wastewater management AS 1547 states that surface irrigated effluent **shall not come into contact with people, domestic or farm animals or any crops intended for human consumption**. So for health reasons it's not permitted under state law.

### 4. MYTH: Magic enzymes... do additives work?

There are many septic system additives such as enzymes and cleaners available on the market. The truth is, these are only suitable for problems that are minor and temporary (e.g. antibiotics in the system, or occasional water overuse). Do not overdose the system with enzymes.

**FACT:** A well-maintained septic system which is receiving the correct amount of wastewater should not need these additives. No amount of additives will help a septic system if it needs to be pumped out or the disposal trenches are failing.