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HOUSEHOLDERS WILL BE OUT OF POCKET WITH NEW BUILDING STANDARD SAYS WASTEWATER INDUSTRY BODY

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Consumers, already reeling from unending economic blows over the past months, will be required to spend more than they should as a new domestic wastewater standard is implemented nationwide.

The National On-Site Providers Association (NOPA), representing on-site wastewater treatment suppliers, has referred to independent research which shows the new standard will cost each homeowner an additional \$5,000 on average.

The central standard for the installation of treatment systems for the common backyard septic tank (AS1546:3.2017) ignores newer technology which is in operation in 14 countries around the world and is proven to be cheaper over time, due to lower maintenance costs and zero electricity usage.

Most states will adopt the standard in 2021. But many have not provided the requisite benefits analysis that is supposed to mark the introduction of a new standard.

NOPA President Chris Taylor says, “The Australian consumer simply cannot, and should not, cop a totally unnecessary additional cost to their home budget for no good reason.”

The standard requires new on-site wastewater treatment systems to be sized for between 8 and 33 people, even though the average Australian home houses just 2.6 people.

Also, the standard requires a level of testing that can only be obtained privately in Australia, through the very same wastewater companies which have lobbied for this standard, and costs over \$100,000.

“This standard creates a false economy with a resulting cost burden on the consumer.

It's completely illogical and hits right where people are hurting right now.

Standards Australia and governments seem happy to hit the consumer with extra costs even during the hardships we are all facing, without any publicly accessible accounting of the impact."

"What we have is Standards Australia kowtowing to the big end of town wastewater treatment companies and shafting smaller, more innovative operators.

And consumers are paying for it."

Further information please contact James Rose 0427 419 415

NOPA is a not for profit Association established to provide the wastewater industry with an Association, a voice and a forum for the provision of high quality, cost effective on-site design, effluent treatment, installation and discharge to the environment.

Our children should always be able to play safely in our rivers, our streams and their own back yards.