

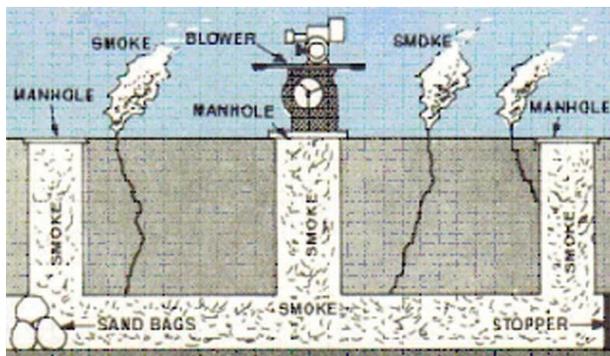


**McKinlay Shire Council will be performing smoke testing of the Sewer Network within the town of Julia Creek as part of the Council's ongoing Sewer Network Management Plan.**

#### **SMOKE TESTING FAQS:**

##### ***Q: How does Smoke Testing work?***

Smoke testing forces smoke-filled air through a sanitary sewer line. The smoke is under pressure and will fill the main sewer line and any connections, it will then follow the path of least resistance and show any leak to the ground surface, quickly revealing the source of the problem. Only enough force to overcome atmospheric pressure is required.



As long as openings exist for the smoke to follow, smoke tests are effective, regardless of surface type, soil type and depth of lines.

##### ***Q: Why does the Council Smoke test?***

Smoke testing is the most efficient and cost effective way to locate and identify areas where the network is failing and the potential for unauthorized water entering the sewer system is possible.

Smoke testing is becoming a requirement nationwide for locating system failures and unauthorized water problems that are threatening the ability to properly treat wastewater and increasing the operational costs to the community's wastewater treatment facilities.

*(Smoke testing will also help identify plumbing leaks in buildings. Sewer gases can cause health problems for building occupants)*

##### ***Q. Will smoke testing of the sewers allow smoke to get into my home?***

No, provided that the plumbing (drainage "traps") are not dry. Drains that are used once every couple weeks should be okay. If you are not sure, simply run water down the drain for a minute to ensure that the trap is not dry.

*(It is important to locate dry traps as they could allow sewer gases to enter your home).*

##### ***Q. Is the smoke harmful?***

No, this process is endorsed by Environmental Agencies and has been safely used for more than 20 years. The "smoke" is not true smoke, but rather a mist containing a large percentage of atmospheric moisture that is highly visible at low



concentrations. It will not harm your health or leave a stain and will disappear rapidly without leaving an odour. Material safety data sheets can be made available upon request. *(Since any smoke can be an irritant, direct contact with the smoke may cause minor respiratory irritation in some people. Individuals with respiratory problems such as chronic asthma, emphysema or other respiratory conditions should avoid direct exposure to the smoke).*



**Q. What should I do if smoke gets into the house?**

Contact a staff member working in the area, or call the **McKinlay Shire Council on (07) 47467166**

Open windows for ventilation. The smoke will soon dissipate.

**Q. If smoke gets into the house, how long does it take the smoke to dissipate?**

The smoke will dissipate quickly with adequate ventilation.

**Q. What is the purpose of smoke testing?**

The main purpose of smoke testing is to locate areas where the sewer network has failed or unauthorized water may be entering the sanitary system.

**Q. I will not be at home during smoke testing and have pets in the house. What should I do?**

The smoke is not harmful to pets. It would be a good idea to leave several windows partially open for ventilation, in the unlikely event that smoke does enter the building.

**Q. Can smoke plug the sewer?**

There is no way smoke can plug the sewer. The smoke is made up of a vaporized substance.

**Q. Where does the smoke appear?**

Smoke may be seen coming from roof vents, building foundations, manhole covers or downpipes (cross connected with the sewer). Smoke coming from roof vents on the roof of homes is a normal occurrence and indicates to the staff that smoke has filled all sewers.

**Q. What happens if you find a bad sewer connector or leak?**

This information will be documented for further investigation.

**Q. Will rodents be smoked out?**

No. However, the smoke may detect broken household sewers where there is a potential for rodent access. Owners will be notified to repair broken household sewers.

**Q. How will I know when the testing is scheduled to occur?**

As the smoke testing of the sewer network will have to be undertaken in sections. The expected time frame for completion is between **30 October to 10 November 2017**.