

the place **DROUIN** *to live . . .*

High performance sewerage system

by James Needham

Australians have long been renowned for their ingenuity and resourcefulness.

Shane Clayton of Drouin and Ian Jackson of Drouin West have continued this tradition, developing an Australian first in sewerage technology.

According to Mr Clayton, his fully certified high performance EFRU pump control system with smaller black polyethylene pipes has grabbed the attention of councils, towns and sewerage boards across Australia.

In Drouin, the rejected proposal for the much-needed public toilets in Alex Goudie Park will be reviewed in light of the new cost efficient technology, according to Cr Ruth McDonald.

Cr McDonald said environmental health experts were following up how the new technology might reduce the cost of installing a sewerage system in the park.

The original cost of installing a pumping station and the problem of septic tanks draining into the nearby lake was enough

to render the proposal unviable.

Mr Clayton added that the new technology was cheaper, safer and more efficient than the old pump systems whose holding tanks cost more than \$6000 a year to operate.

Co-designer and manager of Alian electronics Ian Jackson added that the smaller pipes could be laid continuously and only require a trench around one metre deep as opposed to three and a half metre deep trenches.

This equated to less staff and a safer work environment with no metal shorings required to support the shallower trench.

The EFRU pump can be installed in around half the time and costs about \$30 dollars a year to run.

The pumps are also anti-gravity and originate from a Czechoslovakian company called Sigma, the oldest pump company in the world according to Mr Clayton.

The system comes equipped with electronically controlled switch monitors that track sewerage flow and pinpoint any

potential maintenance problems with an inbuilt alarm system.

"This pump outperforms every other one in the market, it just needs the recognition," Mr Clayton said.

Mr Clayton added it had been a tough inroad into the industry with the US dominated Barnes and Environmental One products controlling the market.

Yet he is adamant that the unique design is superior and more suited to the Australian environment.

Mr Jackson said the pumps unique controlling system allowed statistics on flow rates to be maintained that would help with long term usage assessments.

This information can be stored and later used to analyse where savings could be made on pump cycles and water usage.

Mr Jackson designed the unique pump system wall unit that warns when the tank is overflowing or when it is dry according to three probes that monitor its operating parameters.

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There is even work being done on a system that would send a SMS warning message to an electrician or home owners mobile phone when levels reach a danger point.

Mr Jackson added the marketplace was very conservative and reluctant to accept new technology without supporting evidence.

"If we secured one or two council tenders we could be looking at hundreds of installations per month," he said.

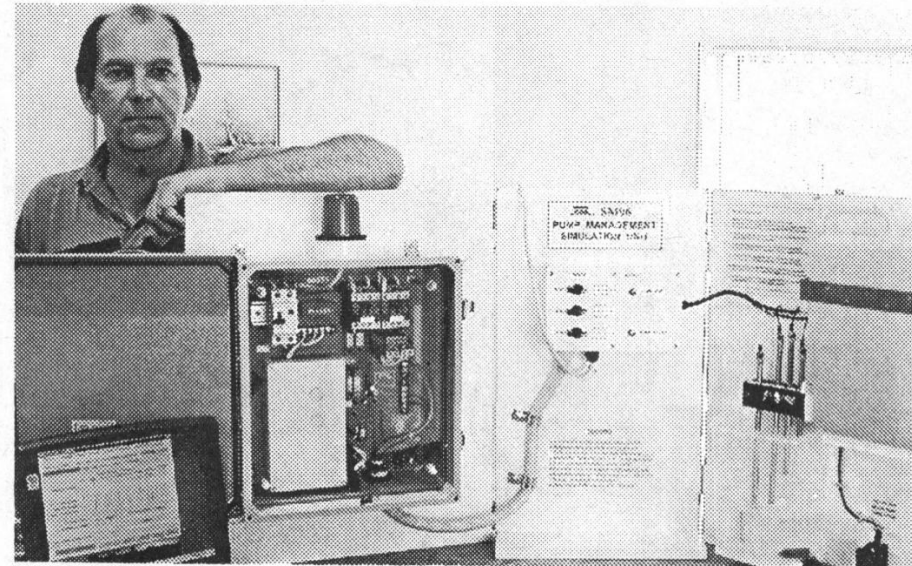
With recent installations in Tooradin and more tenders on the way, it would appear only a matter of time before the new system catches on in homes

as well as public facilities.

Mr Clayton has already completed over 300 in-

stallations himself since the new technologies inception and is confident

the product will welcome in a new era of efficient waste management.



Ian Jackson displays the technology which makes up the new sewerage design.