

## Connection Code Bulletin 2006 – 2

**Issue/s:** Approval of Wormal Poo-Pit Sewer Maintenance Shaft Chambers for Use in Alice Springs, Kings Canyon and Yulara  
**Audience:** Proponents, Project Managers, Designers, Construction Supervisors and Constructors  
**Date:** 22 March 2006

### Introduction

Power and Water has approved the Wormal Poo-Pit sewer maintenance shaft chamber for use in Alice Springs, Kings Canyon and Yulara.

### Why Limit the Use of the Wormal Poo-Pit to Alice Springs, Kings Canyon and Yulara?

*Mastotermes darwiniensis* is a tropical species of termite and has the most destructive powers of all termites or ants. Studies by the CSIRO found colonies of *mastotermes darwiniensis* within 200km of Alice Springs, but not south of the Tropic of Capricorn.

In the 1980's, termite damage of polyethylene (PE) insulation on high voltage cables in and around Darwin led to numerous failures and significant cost to Power and Water.

The other species of termite common in the Territory, *coptotermes acinaciformis*, is found across the Territory, including south of the Tropic of Capricorn. It occurs in interstate in areas where PE is normally used by water utilities and no major reports of termite damage to PE have been reported by those utilities.

Information published by the CSIRO indicates that risk of termite damage, when compared to Brisbane, is similar or lower for Alice Springs.

The Poo-Pit is constructed from medium density polyethylene (MDPE), which can be damaged by termite attack.

Until further information is available on the termite resistance of polyethylene products, Power and Water proposes to limit its use to Alice Springs, Kings Canyon and Yulara, with an exception for areas with corrosive water where PE water service connections give a greater operational life than copper water service connections.

### Who is Responsible to Ensure Use Limits are Followed for Wormal Poo-Pits?

The responsibility for ensuring approved products are correctly used in a project is shared between various people at various stages of a project. Examples include:

- Designers need to ensure their designs are utilising approved products and in accordance with use limits
- A person ordering materials or equipment needs to ensure they are ordering approved products suitable for the site

- A person supplying materials or equipment needs to ensure they are approved products
- A constructor constructing water supply or sewerage infrastructure needs to ensure they are using approved products suitable for the site
- A construction supervisor needs to ensure infrastructure is constructed using approved products suitable for the site

### How Do I Access the Water and Sewage Products Manual?

All of the Connection Code documents, including the Water and Sewage Products Manual are available via the Internet at the Connection Code website:

[http://www.powerwater.com.au/powerwater/business/connectioncode/html/products\\_manual.html](http://www.powerwater.com.au/powerwater/business/connectioncode/html/products_manual.html)

Documents can be viewed on-line or downloaded as a .pdf (Adobe Acrobat) file.

### How Can I Get More Information?

The Land Development section of Power and Water administers the Connection Code and associated activities including the asset creation process for Power and Water's water supply and sewerage infrastructure. Contacts are:

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