

RJ & MT Pearson (Burrungule, SA)

Average milking herd: 400 cows
Type of effluent system: Gravity separation



Effluent from the dairy shed and yard gravitates in to a trafficable solids trap (TST).



The heavy, fibrous solids and sand fall out of solution in the trap, whilst the liquid effluent passes through the vertical separation area (vertical steel panels) in to the sump. The TST can be cleaned out using the property's front end loader. The vertical orientated steel panels trap horizontally floating items like undigested roughage and wood chips.

From the concrete sump effluent is then pumped to a clay lined effluent storage pond.



The TST was designed to be cleaned out using a front end loader, however the property hires a vacuum tanker to clean the trap out every fortnight. The vacuum tanker applies the effluent on to dry land in winter, or under the property's centre pivots during the irrigation months.



Clay was imported from Glencoe to line the 6.9ML pond. The compacted clay lining is 0.6 metres thick (on both the walls and floor). Effluent from the pond is applied through 2 centre pivots during the irrigation months. The nutrients in the effluent are accounted for in the property's fertiliser budget.

Nutrients captured at the dairy shed annually:

- 5,431 kg/yr of Nitrogen
- 1,025 kg/yr of Phosphorous
- 3,806 kg/yr of Potassium



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