

# Protect our environment by managing your liquid trade waste

## Important information for businesses in country NSW

Sewerage systems are designed to transport and treat domestic sewage. Council may accept liquid trade waste into its sewerage system as a service to businesses and industry.

Sound trade waste regulation is essential for:

- protecting sewerage infrastructure, eg. sewer mains, pumping stations and sewage treatment facilities
- protecting our environment – some substances, such as metals or pesticides, may pass through the treatment facility unchanged and accumulate in the environment thereby contaminating our food chain. Other substances may adversely affect the biological processes and the quality of the treated effluent and biosolids
- protecting public and worker health and safety – the public and people working in and around the sewerage system can be harmed if toxic substances are discharged to the sewer.

### What is liquid trade waste?

Liquid trade waste is any discharge to a sewerage system other than domestic waste from a hand wash basin, shower, bath or toilet.

### Impacts of poor liquid trade waste regulation

- blockage of the sewerage system and overflows of untreated sewage to the environment. This is potentially dangerous to public health and is often caused by excess build up of grease, oil and solids
- odour problems
- corrosion of the sewerage infrastructure by strong wastes which is ultimately a cost borne by the community.

### Responsibility of a trade waste discharger

A business wishing to discharge trade waste into a Council sewer must first obtain an approval to do so from Council. Either the owner of the premises or the tenant who carries out an activity on the premises may apply for approval. The tenant must have the written consent of the owner in order to apply for an approval.

A discharger is responsible for pre-treating their waste to a level acceptable for discharge to the sewer. To assist applicants, Council can provide information on the type of pre-treatment needed for various trade waste generating activities.

A discharger must consistently comply with all the conditions in Council's approval.

### Council's responsibility

Council is responsible for providing and regulating water supply, sewerage and liquid trade waste services for its community.

Council must provide these services in accordance with the comprehensive *NSW Framework for Regulation of Sewerage and Trade Waste*.

Requirements include:

- adopting a risk management approach to prevent the degradation of common pool resources, such as land, water or infrastructure. This is done by providing economic incentives for trade waste dischargers to conserve water, minimise their trade waste and to consistently comply with their conditions of approval
- achieving full cost recovery for water supply, sewerage and trade waste services
- assessment and approval of each trade waste application in accordance with the *Liquid Trade Waste Regulation Guidelines, 2009* and Council's Trade Waste Policy
- monitoring of liquid trade waste discharges to its sewerage system to ensure compliance with Council's conditions of approval
- ensuring that any trade waste discharges do not adversely affect the environment, the health and safety of the public and Council's employees
- ensuring that potential beneficial reuse of effluent and biosolids produced at the sewage treatment works is not compromised
- sewerage system licence requirements must be met.

### Best practice management

Best practice management involves Council regulating and pricing sewerage and liquid trade waste in accordance with the *Best-Practice Management of Water Supply and Sewerage Guidelines, 2007* and the *Liquid Trade Waste Regulation Guidelines, 2009*.

The Guidelines are available on the NSW Office of Water website [www.water.nsw.gov.au](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au). The latter Guidelines incorporate the comprehensive *NSW Framework for Regulation of Sewerage and Trade Waste*.

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## Trade waste fees and charges

The transport, treatment and monitoring of liquid trade waste involves significant capital and operating costs. Council will levy sewerage developer charges towards the capital cost of the required infrastructure. The remainder of the costs will be recovered through sewer access and usage charges and trade waste fees and charges.

Property owners are responsible for the payment of water supply, sewerage and liquid trade waste fees and charges.

Council's fees and charges are advertised in its annual Management Plan. The trade waste charging categories include:

- **Category 1** for discharges requiring nil or minimal pre-treatment. Also includes discharges with prescribed pre-treatment and low impact on the sewerage system
- **Category 2** for discharges requiring prescribed pre-treatment
- **Category 2S** for dischargers transporting or discharging septic tank or pan content waste to the sewerage system
- **Category 3** for large discharges (over 20 kL/d) and industrial waste.

Trade waste fees and charges include:

- application fee
- annual trade waste fee to cover the cost of administration, monitoring and inspection by Council
- Category 2 dischargers – a trade waste usage charge per kL based on the volume of waste discharged
- Category 3 dischargers – excess mass charges for any pollutants in excess of the concentration in domestic sewage
- non-compliance charges and a re-inspection fee where a business fails to comply with Council's conditions of approval.

## Sewerage charges

In addition to trade waste fees and charges, compliance with the *Best-Practice Management of Water Supply and Sewerage Guidelines, 2007*, requires that all businesses pay a sewer access charge relative to the peak load they place on the sewerage system and a sewer usage charge per kL for the volume of wastewater discharged to sewer.

## Existing businesses

Section 68 of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires that all trade waste dischargers to a Council sewerage system must have an approval from Council. This applies to both new and existing trade waste dischargers. A discharger who fails to obtain Council's approval or fails to comply with the conditions of approval may be prosecuted under section 120 (1) of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*. In addition, Council may issue a penalty notice under section 222 of that Act.

# Save your money

Minimise your water, sewerage and trade waste bills by:

- using water sparingly and efficiently
- recycling whenever possible and complying with any current water restrictions
- not leaving taps or hoses running
- using water efficient appliances
- using a broom and mop for washing floors – not the hose
- using high pressure hoses or hoses with trigger nozzles for washing vehicles and equipment
- reducing the load on your pre-treatment equipment and the sewerage system by:
  - installing screens and basket arrestors in sinks and floor drains
  - using minimal grease and oil for cooking
  - using trays to catch fat, grease and oil
  - scraping utensils and dishes before washing
- ensuring that your pre-treatment equipment operates effectively by reducing the waste load, detergents and hot water use
- regularly monitoring and maintaining your pre-treatment equipment. Ensure timely pump-outs to avoid blockage of your internal sewer pipes and Council non-compliance charges or a higher liquid trade waste usage charge/kL
- never putting fat, oil, grease or solvents down a sink or drain. Arrange for collection of these wastes by a licensed waste transporter.

**For more information contact your Council**