



Policy for Discharge of Liquid Trade Waste to Sewers and the Sewage Treatment System

(TRADE WASTE POLICY)

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1. INTRODUCTION

Mareeba Shire Council provides a sewerage system for the transport and treatment of domestic sewage. Payment for this service is collected through sewerage charges on each property.

Council must meet all legislative and environmental requirements relating to the disposal and reuse of effluent and sludge from its sewerage system. In particular:

1. Under the *Environmental Protection Act 2004*, discharges to receiving waters are required to be treated to a standard set down in licences which will maintain or enhance water quality and environmental values. Under the Act, Council is also held responsible for any pollution from stormwater outfalls under its control; hence this system must only be used for the disposal of uncontaminated stormwater runoff.
2. Under the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* and the *Environmental Protection Policy (EPP (Water))*, Mareeba Shire Council is also required to fully assess the effect of trade waste on the sewerage system and the environment before issuing a trade waste approval.
3. The discharge of trade waste to storm water drainage is prohibited under the *Local Government Act 2009*.

Domestic sewage consists mostly of water which, after treatment to reduce biodegradable material, suspended solids and nutrients, can be disposed of in accordance with licence requirements.

Liquid waste generated by industry, small business, and commercial enterprises is referred to as trade waste. The *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* prohibits the unauthorised discharge of wastes, other than domestic sewage, into the sewerage system.

Trade waste may have an organic strength many times that of domestic sewage and may overload the treatment facility. Trade waste may also contain a variety of exotic substances such as heavy metals, organic solvents and chlorinated organics which sewerage systems are not designed to treat. These substances may:

- pose a serious risk to the safety and health of sewerage workers;
- damage the fabric of the sewerage system;
- inhibit biological treatment processes;
- accumulate in sludge;
- pass through Council's treatment plants untreated resulting in environmental contamination

Council's policy is to accept biodegradable waste into the sewerage system provided that the system is of adequate capacity to effectively collect, transport and treat the waste. As trade waste imposes an additional load on the sewerage system, trade waste charges apply. Payment for this service is collected through a special rate charges on each property.

Council may consider the acceptance of trade waste containing toxic or hazardous substances and non-degradable pollutants to sewer only after the waste has been pre-treated by on-site "best practicable treatment" to ensure sewer admission limits are not exceeded.

2. DEFINITIONS

Approval (Trade Waste Approval)	A written authority issued by Council under the <i>Water Supply (Safety and Reliability Act) 2008</i> that authorises the discharge of trade waste into the Council sewer reticulation network.
Arrestor / Interceptor	means a device used to intercept a substance in sewage, waste water or trade waste and prevent its discharge into a sewer, septic tank, waste water disposal system or other treatment device.
Best Practicable Treatment	The management of the activity to achieve minimisation of the activity's harm through cost-effective measures assessed against industry benchmarks for the activity.
Biosolids	The treated solids (sludge), mainly organic, produced by sewage treatment
Domestic Sewage	Household wastewater that contains, or may contain, faecal, urinary or other human waste.
Effluent	The liquid discharged following a wastewater treatment process.
Premises	A lot as defined in section 1.3.5 of the <i>Sustainable Planning Act 2009</i> , and includes a lot that has a building situated on it, or that is wholly or partly contained in, or that wholly or partly contains, a building.
Premises Group	The land comprised in 2 or more premises all the owners of which have mutual rights and obligations under the <i>Body Corporate and Management Act 1997</i> (BCCMA) or the <i>Building Units and Group Titles Act 1980</i> (BUGTA) for the purpose of their respective ownerships, and includes the common property forming part of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) if the premises are lots included in a community titles scheme under BCCMA – the scheme land for the scheme; or b) if the premises are lots under BUGTA – the parcel of which the premises form part.
Prohibited substances	A substance prescribed in Schedule 1 of the <i>Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008</i> and s79 of the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i> .
Owner	As defined in the <i>Local Government Act 2009</i> .
Authorised Agent	Person or firm appointed by the owner to act on their behalf.
Sewage	means household and commercial wastewater that contains, or may contain, faecal, urinary or other human waste.
Sewerage	means a sewer, access chamber, vent, engine, pump, structure, machinery, outfall or other work used to receive, store, transport or treat sewage.
Sewerage System	(a) sewage treatment; or (b) the collection and transmission of sewage through infrastructure; or (c) the disposal of sewage or effluent.

- Stormwater Drainage** means a drain, channel, pipe, chamber, structure, outfall or other work used to receive, store, transport or treat stormwater.
- Trade Waste** Water-borne waste from business, trade or manufacturing premises, other than—
- (a) waste that is a prohibited substance; or
 - (b) human waste; or
 - (c) stormwater.
- Trade Waste Generator** Any person, owner, occupier, company, or body whose activity produces or has the potential to produce trade waste. Used interchangeably with 'Generator'
- Technical Officer (Trade Waste)** A person appointed by the Council to carry out inspections of premises from which trade wastes are being discharged or proposed to be discharged to its sewerage system. The term includes an Technical Officer (Trade Waste) appointed by the Council in an acting capacity for the time being to carry out such inspections. A person appointed by Council to oversee the disposal of trade waste in accordance with Council's trade waste policy and waste management plan and provide advice on acceptable methods of disposal of trade waste, including legal, economic and environmental aspects.

3. POLICY OBJECTIVES

The objectives of Council in controlling the discharge of trade waste to sewerage are:

- To provide an environmentally responsible liquid waste disposal system for domestic, commercial and industrial waste in a manner which safeguards public health.
- To prevent harm or injury to sewerage employees.
- To safeguard the sewerage system against damage, blockage or surcharging.
- To exclude non-biodegradable and potentially harmful substances that may:
 - lead to non-compliance with the conditions of Mareeba Shire Council's environmental authority issued by DEHP;
 - cause the treatment process to fail;
 - render effluent or sludge unacceptable for reuse or disposal;
 - cause physical damage to infrastructure; or
 - cause any other detriment to the environment
- To equitably recover the cost of services to commerce and industry including the cost of conveyance, treatment and damage to the sewerage system.
- To provide operational data on the volume and composition of industrial effluent to assist in the operation of the sewerage system and the design of augmentations or new sewerage systems.

- To conform with the National Water Quality Management Strategy *Guidelines for Sewerage Systems, Acceptance of Trade Wastes (Industrial Wastes)*, Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand and Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council, November 1994.
- To encourage waste minimisation.
- To promote water conservation.

4. CONTROL OF TRADE WASTE

It is an offence under the *Local Government Act 2009* to discharge waste, other than uncontaminated storm water either directly or indirectly to a storm water drain. As such, trade waste must be directed to Council's sewer reticulation network.

It is an offence under the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* to discharge trade waste to the sewer unless approved, through the issuing of a Trade Waste Approval (Approval), by Council. An Approval is a written authority from Council for the discharge of trade waste to the sewer and states the requirements and conditions under which discharge is allowed. There are three categories of Approvals:

- Category 1 Approval (Low Volume: Low Strength)
- Category 2 Approval (High Volume: Low Strength)
- Category 3 Approval (Any Volume: High Strength)

A person who is or is proposing to generate trade waste and discharge to the Council sewer reticulation network, must make a written application to the Council in the approved form and the application must be accompanied by the Trade Waste application fee. The application must be signed by the Owner or duly Authorised Agent and the Generator and must be lodged at the following times in respect of any premises where trade waste is generated or likely to be generated:

- during the processing of a Building Application for new premises or extensions intended for industrial and / or commercial usage;
- At or about the same time that an application for a Food Licence for a premises is lodged with Council;
- change in tenancy of such premises;
- shop fit-outs of such premises;
- during the processing of an application to strata title such premises;
- existing premises where trade waste is generated, and no permit or agreement has been issued;
- change of ownership of such premises (trade waste permits are not transferrable).

Applicants for Category 3 Approvals must request a pre-lodgement meeting to discuss the application with the Trade Waste Officer.

In assessing applications, Council will consider the conditions of its Environmental Authority in regard to the Wastewater Treatment Plant effluent quality. Council is also required by the *Water Supply (Safety & Reliability) Act 2008* to assess any proposal to discharge trade waste into the sewer after considering a number of criteria including the effect of trade waste discharges on the

sewerage system before issuing approvals. Council may issue an Approval with conditions after consideration of these factors.

Further information about the control of trade waste, making application, fees and charges and Council standards about trade waste discharge may be found in the Council's **Trade Waste Management Plan**.

Where a waste is deemed to be non-sewerable, an Approval will not be issued, and alternative arrangements for disposal of wastes will have to be made. Advice on treatment and disposal options for non-sewerable waste may be obtained from Council's Technical Officer (Trade Waste) or the Queensland Government's lead environmental regulatory department.

A summary of legislation relevant to trade waste discharge to the sewer is given in Appendix 1 for the benefit of applicants. This is not, nor is it intended to be, a complete listing of all legislation pertaining to the discharge of trade waste.

4.1 TRADE WASTE APPROVAL EXEMPTIONS

Some Trade Waste customers are assessed as low risk and discharge small volumes of wastewater to the sewer that do not represent any additional loading to the sewerage system. These customers may be authorised by Mareeba Shire Council to discharge to the sewer subject to the customer installing specific standards of pre-treatment and meeting any other requirements. The onus is on the Generator to demonstrate that the discharge has no additional loading on the sewerage system. Any exemption granted does not absolve the Generator or Owner of a Premise from fulfilling obligations under any relevant Acts or Regulations. Trade waste charges do not apply to these Generators.

Mareeba Shire Council reserves the right to reassess the facts and circumstances of any businesses or individuals that receive an exemption with the view to determining whether an Approval and Charges are applicable or if the Generator or an Owner of a Premises has caused an offence under a relevant Act or Regulation.

5. DEALINGS WITH PARTICULAR WASTES

Prohibitions or special conditions may apply to certain wastes. The Trade Waste Management Plan outlines MSC expectations in dealings with:

- Liquid waste contractors
- Food disposal units
- commercial swimming pools / ornamental pools
- medical, clinical, veterinary and infectious wastes
- containment of toxic / hazardous substances
- discharge of liquid from buses, aircraft and vessels
- landfill leachate
- discharge from open areas

6. SEWER ADMISSION STANDARDS

Any waste discharges to Council's sewer shall be at all times compliant with the Trade Waste Sewer Admission Limits as set out in the Trade Waste Management Plan unless otherwise specified in the Approval. These limits are subject to periodic review.

The sewer admission limits, unless otherwise specified in the Approval, are absolute maximums.

The dilution of trade waste with water to achieve compliance with the sewer admission limits is prohibited.

The trade waste stream and the domestic waste stream should, where ever practicable, discharge separately to the sewer. Where there is a common discharge pipe, allowance for the domestic component will be made to estimate the actual trade waste component strength and volume.

Compliance with the sewer admission limit or authorised limits shall be ascertained at the nominated location on the Approval or at the closest point of discharge to the sewer upstream of where the sewer is joined by any sewer transporting domestic type waste.

DISCHARGE CATEGORIES

All trade waste accepted to the sewer will be classified according to the following three categories for the purposes of approval, control and charging.

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Category 1: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Low strength / low volume discharges:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ COD less than 600mg/L, and▪ Suspended Solids less than 300 mg/L▪ Volume less than 500 kl/annum▪ Charge - Flat fee |
| Category 2: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Low strength / high volume discharges:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ COD less than 600mg/L, and▪ Suspended solids less than 300 mg/L▪ Volume greater than 500 kl/annum▪ Charge – Flat fee; |
| Category 3: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• High strength / any volume discharges:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ COD greater than 600 mg/L, or▪ Suspended solids greater than 500 mg/L▪ Volume any▪ Charge – Flat fee |

Acceptance of waste under any category is conditional on the waste meeting Council's Sewer Admission Limits unless otherwise specified in the Approval.

It is the responsibility of the trade waste generator to install, operate and maintain "best practicable treatment" facilities to ensure sewer admission limits are not exceeded.

In the event of a significant change in the strength or volume of a waste approved under Category 1 or Category 2, the waste will be treated as a Category 3 waste for the purposes of charging and monitoring and the Trade Waste Generator will be required to submit a new application for the higher level Trade Waste Category.

7. TRADE WASTE APPROVALS

7.1 Category 1 And Category 2 Approvals

Trade Waste Generators must apply for a Trade Waste Approval. Trade Waste Generators must obtain the consent of the Property Owner or Authorised Agent. Upon successful application, both the Property Owner or Authorised Agent and the trade waste generator, when the Owner is not the Generator, of a premise from which waste classified as Category 1 or Category 2 is being discharged, shall be issued with a Trade Waste Approval which shall remain in force for the specified period unless cancelled sooner.

Trade waste permits are not transferable.

The Trade Waste Approval states the terms and conditions the Owner or Authorised Agent and the Generator must observe to discharge trade waste to Council's sewerage system. These include, but are not limited to:

- the location of the premises and nature of the occupancy;
- the type and composition of trade waste that may be discharged;
- the quantity of trade waste that may be discharged;
- the rate of discharge, including maximum rate of discharge;
- the time when trade waste may be discharged;
- the period for which trade waste may be discharged;
- the method for estimation or measurement of discharge volume in agreement with Council;
- provisions for measurement and sampling of discharge prior to entry to the sewer;
- details of any pre-treatment required;
- conditions for maintenance of and removal of waste from pre-treatment equipment, including the contractor to be used;
- records to be kept concerning the cleaning and maintenance of pre-treatment equipment;
- the powers of Council to enter premises in relation to any matter with regard to trade waste control;
- termination conditions;
- penalties for non-compliance;
- the obligations of the owner and generator with respect to the payment of charges, fees, and penalties; and
- any other condition considered by Council to be reasonable.

7.2 Category 3 Approval

A Trade Waste Generator of category 3 Trade Waste must apply for a category 3 Trade Waste Approval. Trade Waste Generators must obtain the consent of the Property Owner or Authorised Agent. Both the Property Owner or Authorised Agent and the trade waste Generator, when the Owner is not the Generator, of premises from which waste classified as Category 3 is being discharged, shall be required to attend an application prelodgement meeting with Council to discuss an applicant's proposal and Council's acceptance criteria and likely conditions that may be imposed through the Approval. The Approval is renewable annually.

Trade Waste Approvals are not transferable.

The Trade Waste Approval states the terms and conditions the Owner or Authorised Agent and the Generator must observe to discharge trade waste to Council's sewerage system. These include but are not limited to:

- location of the premises and nature of the occupancy;
- the quality of waste that may be discharged;
- the quantity of waste that may be discharged;
- the rate of discharge – maximum instantaneous, maximum daily;
- hours of the day, days of week discharge is allowed;
- details of self-regulation monitoring program
 - sampling point
 - the frequency of sampling
 - the method of sample collection and type of sample to be collected
 - analyses required
 - laboratory to be used
 - data transfer and availability to Council;
- type, design and location of flow measuring equipment and requirements for calibration
- methods to be used for estimation of data lost due to the failure of sampling program or flow measurement instrumentation;
- provision for measurement and sampling of discharge volume and quality prior to entry to the sewer in agreement with Council;
- pre-treatment processes to be used;
- conditions for maintenance of, and removal of waste from, pre-treatment equipment;
- records to be kept concerning the cleaning and maintenance of pre-treatment equipment and disposal of waste;
- the powers of Council to enter premises in relation to any matter with regard to trade waste control;
- the obligation of the Owner or Authorised Agent and the Generator concerning any variations to operation or treatment processes that may affect discharge quantity or quality including change of business type;
- the obligations of the Owner or Authorised Agent and the Generator on termination of an Agreement by expiry, discontinuance of discharges, change of ownership or generator, or non-compliance with Agreement conditions;
- the obligations of the Owner or Authorised Agent and the Generator with respect to the payment of charges, fees, and penalties;
- penalties for non-compliance;
- a force majeure clause;
- the conditions by which any difference or dispute between Council, the Owner or Authorised Agent and the Generator arising from the terms of the Agreement which are not resolved to their mutual satisfaction may be submitted to arbitration; and
- any other conditions relevant to the particular discharge agreed to.

8. TRADE WASTE CHARGES AND FEES

The minimum charge to be levied in respect of trade waste for the ensuing financial year will be determined by Council resolution passed before or at the same time as the budget in any financial year.

Trade Waste Generator and/or Owner or Authorised Agent will be invoiced annually, and the amount thereof shall be a debt due by the Trade Waste Approval Holder, and if not paid within 30

days after service of the demand, Council may issue a Show Cause Notice to the Trade Waste Approval Holder seeking reasons as to why the Approval should not be cancelled.

As a condition of renewal, it is a requirement that premises supply their previous year's annual servicing history to Council. Approvals will not be issued without first receiving this information.

Trade waste fees and charges for the current financial year are listed in Council's Prescribed Fees and Charges. These are available through Council's website.

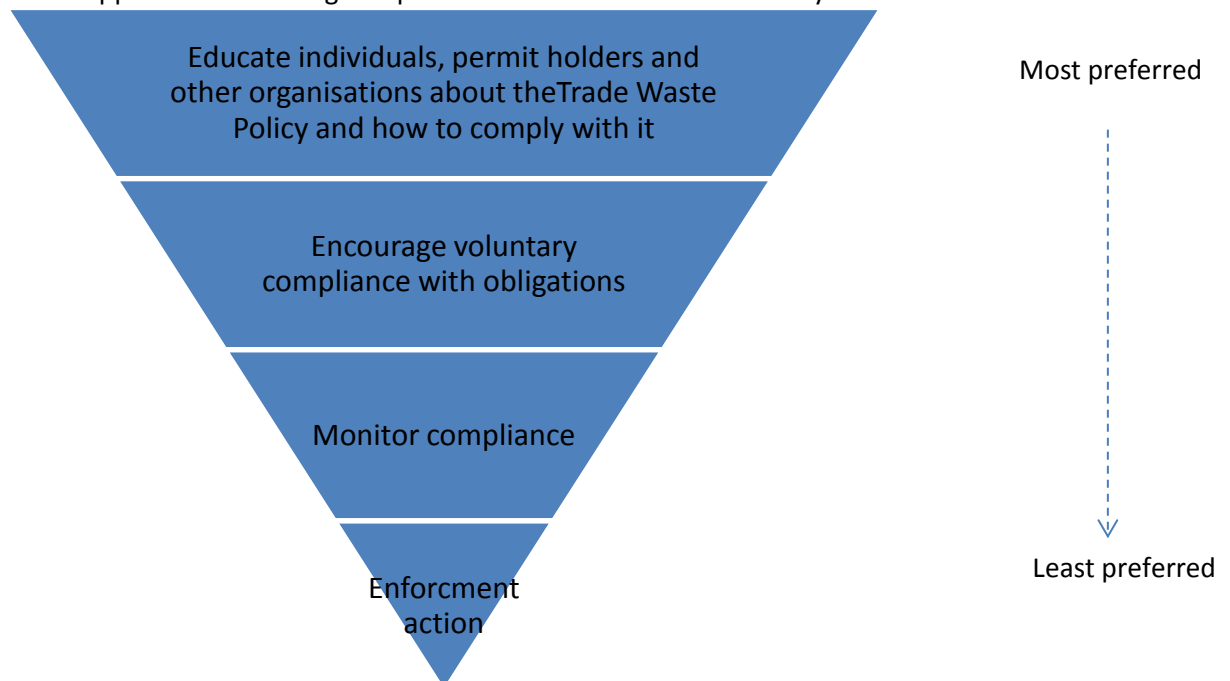
A description of relevant fees may be found in the Trade Waste Management Plan.

9. DISCRETIONARY POWER

Notwithstanding the provisions of this policy, given the complexity of many industrial wastes and the need to protect Council's sewerage system, staff and the environment, acceptance of any given trade waste to sewer shall always be at the discretion of Council.

10. COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

MSC's approach to ensuring compliance with this Trade Waste Policy is to:



A compliance inspection may happen in response to either a complaint or incident, or it can be part of MSC's proactive inspection schedule.

To help Trade Waste Generators comply with their Trade Waste Approval, this Policy combined with the Trade Waste Management Plan will set clear expectations about acceptable standards of performance, and MSC will issue easy to understand guidance material and information about how to meet those expectations to permit holders.

For those individuals or organisations who choose not to comply with their obligations, MSC will be consistent in taking prompt enforcement action to in order to protect Council infrastructure,

human health and the environment. This action will demonstrate to responsible Approval holders, and the broader community, that there are consequences for poor performance.

In addition, MSC will consider the performance of Trade Waste Generators when developing its compliance activities each year. This information is combined with a risk rating for particular trade waste categories to ensure that the department's proactive activities are targeted.

Further information about Council's Compliance and Enforcement Program in relation to Trade Waste may be found in the Trade Waste Management Plan.

10.1 Termination of Approval

Failure by the owner and / or trade waste generator to comply with the conditions of their Approval or the requirements of any written notices issued pursuant to their Approval may result in the Approval being terminated by Council.

Terms and conditions of an Approval in respect of any matter occurring before the termination, including the payment of charges owing, shall continue to have force and effect after the termination of the Approval.

10.2 Penalties

Council may issue notices, including penalty infringement notices or prosecute any person who commits a breach of the *Water Supply (Safety & Reliability) Act 2008* or who refuses or neglects to comply with any direction or requirement by Council pursuant to the *Water Supply (Safety & Reliability) Act 2008*.

11. REFERENCE TO COUNCIL

In this policy, reference to Council means any person appointed or authorized by Council to act on behalf of Council as the case may be.

APPENDIX 1 - Selected Legislation Relevant To Trade Waste

Local Government Act 2009

Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008

Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002

Standard Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003

Environmental Protection Act 1994

- Environmental Protection Regulation 2008
- Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 2009

Council Local Laws