FACT SHEET

Mareeba SHIRE COUNCIL

A Guide to Trade Waste

General Information

Understanding how your trade waste responsibilities and the relationship between water usage, wastewater discharge to Council wastewater system.

Mareeba Shire Council is responsible for providing water and wastewater services to all residents and businesses within the Shires region.

This fact sheet is designed to assist property and business owners to better understand their trade waste responsibilities and the steps required to seek Trade Waste Approval.

What Is Trade Waste?

Generally, Trade Waste is liquid waste other than domestic sewerage, it is wastewater which would normally be generated from any commercial, industrial trade or manufacturing premises.

Trade Waste is defined as liquid waste from a business, trade or manufacturing premises, other than

(i) human waste
(ii) Storm water or
(iii) waste that is a prohibited substance.

You must have an approval from Mareeba Shire Council to discharge trade waste into the Council's wastewater system.

Why Does Trade Waste Require Approvals?

Mareeba Shire Council provides a wastewater system to transfer and treat wastewater. Trade waste may contain a variety of toxic or harmful substances, for example, heavy metals, organic solvents, oils and grease, explosive substances, gross solids and chlorinated organics. Wastewater treatments plants are not designed to treat these substances, which may also pose a health and safety risk.

Who Is Responsible?

Mareeba Shire Council is responsible for ensuring that all Trade Waste generators comply with the requirements of the Water Supply Act 2008 and the Environmental Protection Act.

The Plumbing and Drainage Section of Mareeba Shire Council is responsible for the approvals, inspections and compliance of Plumbing and Drainage.

Trade waste generators/property owners are responsible for being aware of the requirements of generating trade waste, ensuring that they have the appropriate approvals to discharge in Councils wastewater system and for conforming to the conditions of the approval.

Trade Waste generators are also responsible for ensuring that additives used in the pre-treatment process have been certified by a suitably qualified professional as being harmless to the wastewater reticulation/treatment system and the environment and have been assessed by Mareeba Shire Council.

What Is an Approval to Discharge Trade Waste?

If your property has the capacity to discharge trade waste to the wastewater system you must first apply for a "Trade Waste Approval". The approval sets out the conditions for discharging trade waste into the wastewater system. Failure to comply with these conditions will affect your approval status.

Before applying for an approval to discharge trade waste, property owners/trade waste generators must ensure that all prior approvals i.e. town planning, building and plumbing and drainage approvals have been obtained.

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Trade Waste Categories

There are 4 Trade Waste Categories, **Very Low, Low, Medium and High** which all depend on a number of factors such as the business activity, what substances are of use, what pre-treatment equipment is used and how much metered water consumption is being used. These categories are based on a formula called the Trade Waste Risk Score.

If you required further information on how to find out your Category for your Trade Waste, you can find the "Determination of Trade Waste Category information sheet on Council's website.

How Can I Apply for an Approval to Discharge Trade Waste?

Application forms plus other trade waste information are available from the Council's website or simply contact the Building and Plumbing Compliance department on 1300 308 461 and arrange to have the information sent or emailed out.

All Correspondence on Trade Waste matters can be emailed to:

building@msc.qld.gov.au

Change of Ownership and/or Renewing Trade Waste Approvals

The Trade Waste Approval is issued to the property owner and is **not transferable**, therefore a new Trade Waste Approval will need to be applied for and a new Trade Waste Permit issued, a change or variation in a trade waste generators business that impacts on the quality or quantity of Trade Waste requires reassessment and possible renewal of the approval.

Responsibilities and Obligations

Approval Holders Obligations

The owner of any parcel of land from which trade waste is discharged to the Council Sewerage System is recognised by Mareeba Shire Council as being responsible for any trade waste discharged to sewer and that the approval remains current. Under normal

circumstances any Trade Waste Approval will be issued to the owner of the property.

The approval holder is responsible for ensuring that:

- An application is made for Trade Waste Approval.
- Trade Waste is not discharged without a trade waste approval.
- The discharge complies with the conditions of the Trade Waste Approval.
- The works required under any notices issued by Mareeba Shire Council are completed.
- Trade Waste charges are paid in full.
- All parties involved in Trade Waste activities are aware of their obligations under the relevant Trade Waste Approval.

Trade Waste Generators (Occupier's) Rights and Obligations

Any discharge to sewer that is not in accordance with the Trade Waste Approval (i.e. illegal discharge) is the responsibility of the person undertaking that discharge, usually the occupier of the property. The property owner will be informed of any non-compliance issues.

The owner of a property with a Trade Waste Approval may delegate the responsibility for paying Trade Waste charges to the business that generates the waste. This is a private arrangement between owner and tenant that does not involve Mareeba Shire Council.

Non-Compliance

Where a Trade Waste generator does not comply with the conditions of the approval to discharge trade waste or has illegally connected to the wastewater system, Mareeba Shire Council has the power to suspend or cancel and existing Trade Waste Permit and where necessary prosecute the approval holder in accordance with the Water Supply (Safety & Reliability) Act 2008.

Mareeba Shire Council will also prosecute anyone found illegally dumping or discharging Trade Waste or prohibited substances into Councils wastewater and/or stormwater systems and/or onto any land, and/or into any waterways or watercourse.

For more information about Trade Waste, contact Council on 1300 304 461 or visit Council's website.