



# Trade Waste Policy

*Water Supply (Safety & Reliability) Act 2008*

# 1. POLICY STATEMENT

Townsville City Council recognises that allowing the discharge of trade waste to sewer provides benefits to the economy of Townsville, yet poses a risk to the sewerage system, the natural environment and the safety of workers and the community.

Accordingly, Council will manage discharges of trade waste to the sewerage system in accordance with the requirements of the *Water Supply (Safety & Reliability) Act 2008*, and with the objective of maximising:

- Community safety;
- Protection of the natural environment; and
- Benefits to the Townsville economy.

## 2. PRINCIPLES

Trade waste management is guided by strategies defined in the Townsville City Council Corporate Plan and includes the following principles:

- Create economic opportunities for Townsville to drive community prosperity;
- Preserve our natural environment through active management, education and compliance activities;
- Enhance wellbeing and safety in the community; and
- Deliver best value customer service to our community.

Trade waste management forms a part of Council's move towards a wastewater source management philosophy as outlined in the *WSAA National Wastewater Source Management Guidelines*.

A key principle in Council's management of trade waste is that the owner of the property from which trade waste is discharged is responsible for all aspects of the trade waste management, including compliance with the Trade Waste Approval and the payment of all fees and charges.

## 3. SCOPE

This policy applies to all trade waste management in Townsville.

## 4. RESPONSIBILITY

The Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Planning and Development Officer and the General Manager Townsville Water and Waste are responsible for ensuring this policy is understood and adhered to by all relevant staff.

## 5. DEFINITIONS

**Council** – means the Townsville City Council and its businesses unit Townsville Water and Waste.

**Manager** – includes persons appointed to positions including with the title, Team Manager, General Manager, Principal, Director and Chief.

**Trade Waste** – means water-borne waste from business, trade, or manufacturing premises (including industrial, commercial, medical, dental, veterinary, agricultural, horticultural, scientific research or experimental activities) other than waste that is a prohibited substance, human waste or stormwater.

**Trade Waste Approval** – means written approval by council for a person to discharge liquid trade waste to council's sewerage system.

**Sewerage System** – means all parts of the council's sewerage infrastructure, including any sewer, access chamber, vent, engine, pump, structure, machinery, outfall or other work used to receive, store, transport or treat sewage.

**Workers** – includes employees, contractors, volunteers and all others who perform work on behalf of Council.

**WSAA** – mean Water Services Association of Australia.

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## 6. POLICY

To ensure the continued protection of our environment and waterways, while providing a service to the commercial sector, Council will conditionally accept trade waste into the sewerage system provided that it:

- Does not contain substances in amounts that are or may be toxic or hazardous to efficient operation of the sewerage system, treatment processes, personnel or the environment; and
- Is not discharged in a quantity that may exceed the system's capacity to collect, transport and treat the trade waste.

Council will manage trade waste using a combination of instruments, including:

- Trade Waste Management Plan;
- Trade waste approvals;
- Risk management process;
- Sewer admission limits;
- Cost reflective trade waste charging structure; and
- Compliance and enforcement.

### 6.1. TRADE WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The council's Trade Waste Management Plan (TWMP) comprehensively describes the structure and processes for the management of trade waste and is publicly available. The TWMP is the responsibility of the Chief Planning and Development Officer and will be reviewed every 3 years.

### 6.2. TRADE WASTE APPROVALS

Council is not obliged to accept trade waste to sewer, but may do so, provided that:

- The proposed discharge meets the criteria stipulated in council's Trade Waste Management Plan;
- The proposed discharge volumes are such that the system has adequate capacity to collect, transport and treat the waste; and
- The discharger has a current Trade Waste Approval and complies with the conditions of that approval.

Other than in exceptional circumstances, Trade Waste Approvals are issued to the owners of a property from which trade waste is discharged.

Any person wishing to discharge trade waste to the sewer must apply to council for a Trade Waste Approval on behalf of the property owner. The property owner's consent is required for any application.

### 6.3. SEWER ADMISSION LIMITS

Council has developed a suite of standard sewer admission limits designed to ensure that trade waste discharges do not cause a detrimental impact to the sewerage system, environment or safety. A trade waste discharger may be permitted a variation from these limits, provided that it can be demonstrated that there will be no detrimental impact.

### 6.4. RISK MANAGEMENT

Each trade waste customer will be categorised depending on the type of trade waste generating activity.

Trade waste customers are also assessed for the level of risk posed to the system. The risk rating provides a consistent and equitable basis for scheduling compliance activities of approved dischargers.

### 6.5. TRADE WASTE CHARGING

To ensure recovery of costs for collection, transport, treatment and administration of trade waste, Council will levy trade waste fees and charges in accordance with the Local Government Act 2009 and council's annual utility charges schedule. These charges will be levied on the owner of the property from which trade waste is discharged.

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## 6.6. PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT

Council will undertake routine compliance inspections of each trade waste customer. Where necessary, Council staff will exercise their access rights as described in legislation.

A trade waste discharger who is found to be non-compliant with their trade waste approval, or to not have a trade waste approval, will be managed in accordance with the TWMP and relevant legislation. This may include cancellation of approval and/or prosecution if appropriate.

## 7. LEGAL PARAMETERS

*Local Government Act 2009*

*Local Government Regulation 2012*

*Water Supply (Safety & Reliability) Act 2008*

*State Penalties and Enforcement Act 1999*

## 8. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Trade Waste Management Plan

WSAA Australian Sewage Quality Management Guidelines 2012

## 9. DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date	Version	Amendment	Reviewer	Approved

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