

## Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- provide an environmentally responsible liquid waste disposal system for commercial and industrial waste in a manner which safeguards public health;
- prevent harm or injury to employees;
- safeguard the sewerage system against damage, blockage or surcharging;
- exclude non-biodegradable, potentially harmful substances that may cause:
  - the treatment process to fail;
  - render effluent or sludge unacceptable for reuse or disposal; or
  - cause any other detrimental effect to the environment;
- recover the cost of services to commerce and industry including the cost of, transmission, treatment and damage to the sewerage system;
- encourage industrial development but at the same time achieve industry compliance with this policy and the Trade Waste Management Plan;
- promote water conservation;
- provide operational data on the volume and composition of industrial and commercial effluent to assist in the operation of the sewerage system and the design of augmentations or new sewerage systems; and
- reduce waste by encouraging awareness of a product's life cycle and including environmental costs in the cost of the product.

## Scope

This policy is applicable to all industrial, commercial or other premises connected to Whitsunday Regional Council's sewerage system that may discharge trade waste for treatment within Council's sewerage system.

## Applicable Legislation

This policy is in reference to the following legislation:

- Water Supply (Safety & Reliability) Act 2008
- Local Government Act 2009
- Environmental Protection Act 1994

Page 1 of 4

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- Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 2009
- Environmental Protection Regulation 2008
- Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Regulation 2000
- Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002
- Standard Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003
- Sustainable Planning Act 2009
- Radiation Safety Act 1999
- Radiation Safety Regulation 1999
- Gene Technology Act 2001

## Policy Statement

1. To ensure the continued protection of our environment and waterways, while providing a service to the commercial sector, Council shall conditionally accept trade waste into the sewerage system provided that it:
  - (a) 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
  - (b) is not discharged in a quantity that may exceed the system's capacity to collect, transport and treat the trade waste.
2. Council will manage trade waste in accordance with Council's Trade Waste Management plan.
3. Council shall provide technical support to promote an appropriate service to industrial and commercial customers and to protect the community, the environment, the sewerage system and the waste water treatment processes from adverse effects.
4. Council approval, including payment of any Council fees, must be obtained before trade waste is discharged from any property to Council's sewerage system.
5. It is the responsibility of the trade waste property owner to obtain approval through Councils' approval process.
6. Council is not obliged to accept trade waste to sewer, but may do so, provided that:
  - (a) the proposed discharge meets the criteria stipulated in Council's Trade Waste Management Plan;
  - (b) the proposed discharge volumes are such that the system has adequate capacity to collect, transport and treat the waste; and
  - (c) the trade waste discharger has a current Trade Waste Approval and complies with the conditions of that approval, including the payment of any fees charged by Council.
7. Any waste discharged into Council's sewerage system must comply with the Trade Waste Sewer Admission Limits.

8. To ensure recovery of costs for collection, transport, treatment and administration of trade waste, Council shall levy trade waste fees and charges in accordance with the Local Government Act 2009 and as specified in the Trade Waste Management Plan and Council's annual utility charges. These charges shall be levied on the owner of the property from which the trade waste is discharged.
9. Council shall undertake routine inspections of each trade waste discharger. Where necessary, Council Officers shall exercise their rights to access as described in the relevant legislation.
10. A trade waste discharger who is found to be non-compliant with their Trade Waste Approval, or to not have a Trade Waste Approval, shall be managed in accordance with Council's Trade Waste Management Plan and relevant legislation. This may include the cancellation of a trade waste approval and/or prosecution if appropriate.
11. Council may recover costs of repairing damaged sewerage infrastructure if a person:
  - (a) damages the sewerage system by discharging unauthorised material;
  - (b) makes an unauthorised connection; or
  - (c) interferes with Council infrastructure in any other manner.
12. Council may prosecute any person who commits a breach of the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008, the Local Government Act (2009), or the Environmental Protection Act 1994 and the subordinate legislation or regulation, or who refuses or neglects to comply with any direction or requirement of Council pursuant to the aforementioned legislation or other relevant legislation.
13. The Trade Waste Policy is required in line with State Government legislation. Notwithstanding the provisions of this policy, due to the complexity of many industrial wastes and the need to protect council's sewerage system, employees, and the environment, acceptance of any given liquid trade waste to sewer will always be at the discretion of council. The Council has power to suspend discharge approvals when issues beyond the Council's control will prevent the Council from safely accepting a discharge. This power is to be recorded in all discharge agreements made under this policy.

## Definitions

**CEO** refers to the Chief Executive Officer of the Whitsunday Regional Council appointed in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009*.

**Council** refers to the Whitsunday Regional Council

**Employee** refers to any employee, contractor, volunteer etc. of the Council

**Reuse** refers to in relation to recycled water, includes being treated to improve the effluent quality, but does not include merely being discharged into, or disposed of in, the environment.

**Sewerage system** refers to Council's sewers, house connection branches, access chambers, vents, engines, pumps, structures machinery, outfalls or any other works used to receive, store, transport or treat sewage.

**Trade waste** refers to water-borne waste from business, trade, manufacturing or other premises, other than:

- (a) waste that is a prohibited substance; or



# Trade Waste Policy

Community & Environment

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(b) human waste; or

(c) stormwater.

## Relating Documents

Trade Waste Environmental Management Plan 2018-2019

## Effective Date

22 August 2018

## Review Date

22 August 2019

Page 4 of 4

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