

TRADE WASTE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

This Management Plan is to remain in force until otherwise determined by Council.	
Officer responsible for review:	Manager, Planning and Environment
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Trade Waste Environmental Management Plan

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1. INTRODUCTION

Liquid wastes are produced by a variety of industrial, commercial and domestic activities. The *Environmental Protection Act 1994* provides a general prohibition against the pollution of the environment by the discharge of such wastes, except where the person or agency holds an environmental authority permitting such discharge. All discharges to receiving waters are required to be treated to a standard that will maintain or enhance receiving water quality and environmental values.

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. The options for producers of trade waste are to have it treated at an approved treatment facility, obtain approval from Cook Shire Council to discharge to the sewerage system, or to obtain an environmental authority under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* to treat the waste themselves before discharge to the environment.

Cook Shire Council provides a sewerage system primarily for the transport and treatment of domestic sewage. Payment for this service is collected through sewerage charges on each rateable property. This system may also be used, with the approval of Cook Shire Council, for the acceptance and treatment of trade waste. As trade waste imposes an additional load on the sewerage system, trade waste charges apply.

Residential ratepayers have to bear the extra costs involved with the treatment of commercial and industrial discharges. The purpose of the Trade Waste Environmental Management Plan is also to remove this burden and provide a user pays system.

Cook Shire Council is required to meet the conditions of the environmental authority (license), issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), for its sewerage system, including the disposal and reuse of treated effluent and biosolids. Cook Shire Council is also required by the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* and the *Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 2009* [EPP (Water)] to fully assess the effect of trade waste on sewerage and the environment before issuing a trade waste approval.

Under the *Environmental Protection Act*, Cook Shire Council is held responsible for any pollution from stormwater outfalls under its control. The discharge of trade waste to stormwater drainage is prohibited under the *Local Government Act 2009*. The stormwater system must only be used for the disposal of uncontaminated stormwater runoff.

Domestic sewage consists mostly of water which, after treatment to reduce biodegradable material, suspended solids and nutrients, can be disposed of in accordance with its environmental authority requirements. Cook Shire Council is actively seeking opportunities to reuse treated effluent and biosolids. 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 other substances – such as heavy levels of fats and grease, heavy metals, organic solvents and chlorinated organic substances – 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 infrastructure of the sewerage system;

- inhibit biological processes at the treatment plant;
- accumulate in biosolids, making their reuse difficult or impracticable; or
- pass through the plant untreated resulting in environmental contamination.

To ensure the continued protection of our environment and waterways, Cook Shire Council's policy is to accept, subject to conditions, biodegradable waste into the sewerage system provided that:

- the system is of adequate capacity to effectively collect, transport and treat the waste; and
- all practicable waste minimisation, recycling and reuse options have been applied by the **trade waste generator**.

Discharge of waste containing substances in amounts liable to be toxic or hazardous to the sewerage system, treatment process, personnel or the environment is prohibited. Cook Shire 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.

In order to maintain community confidence in Cook Shire Council's sewerage operations, and in line with national practice, trade waste approvals are available for public scrutiny. Commercially confident details may be withheld.

2. DEFINITIONS

<i>Agreement</i>	See trade waste agreement.
<i>Arrestor/Interceptor</i>	An apparatus designed to intercept and retain silt, sand, grease, oil, sludge and other substances in a waste discharge.
<i>Authorised Agent</i>	Person or firm appointed by the owner to act on their behalf. Notification to Council of such appointment is to be lodged in writing with Council.
<i>Biosolids</i>	The treated solids (sludge), mainly organic, produced by sewerage treatment.
<i>Council</i>	In this plan a reference to Council means the Cook Shire Council or any person appointed or authorised by the Cook Shire Council to act on behalf of Cook Shire Council as the case may require.
<i>Domestic sewage</i>	Faecal matter and urine of human origin and liquid householder wastes from water closet pans, sinks, baths, basins and similar fixtures designed for use in private dwellings.
<i>Effluent</i>	The liquid discharged following a wastewater treatment process.
<i>Generator</i>	See trade waste generator.
<i>Human wastes</i>	Human faecal substances and urine.

<i>Licensed Waste Transporter</i>	A licenced waste transporter in accordance with the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> and <i>Environmental Protection Regulation 2008</i> .
<i>Owner</i>	As defined in the <i>Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008</i> (for most situations, the owner is the registered proprietor of the land under the <i>Land Title Act 1994</i>).
<i>Permit</i>	See trade waste permit.
<i>Premises</i>	A lot as defined under the <i>Planning Act 2016</i> , schedule 2.
<i>Premises Group</i>	The land comprising in two 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 the BCCMA – the scheme land for the scheme; or (b) if the premises are lots under BUGTA – the parcel of which the premises form part.
<i>Prohibited Substances</i>	A substance prescribed in Schedule 1 of the <i>Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008</i> .
<i>Regulated Waste</i>	Non-domestic waste as mentioned in Schedule 7 of the <i>Environmental Protection Regulation 2008</i> (whether or not it has been treated or immobilised) and includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) for an element – any chemical compound containing the element; and (b) anything that has contained the waste.
<i>Sewage</i>	The waste water from the community including all faecal matter, urine, household and commercial waste water that contains human waste.
<i>Sewerage or Sewerage System</i>	Infrastructure used to receive, transport and treat sewage or effluent, and consisting of some or all of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) sewers (b) access chambers (c) vents (d) engines (e) pumps (f) structures (g) machinery (h) outfalls (i) works not mentioned in (a) to (h).
<i>Stormwater Drainage</i>	Means infrastructure used to receive, store, transport or treat stormwater, and consisting of some or all of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) drains (b) channels (c) pipes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (d) chambers (e) structures (f) outfalls (g) works not mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (f)
<i>Trade Waste</i>	The water borne waste from business, trade or manufacturing premises, other than: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) waste that is a prohibited substance; and (b) human waste; and/or (c) stormwater
<i>Trade Waste agreement (Agreement)</i>	Trade waste approval for the discharge of liquid waste classified as Category 3. It states that terms and conditions to be met by the trade waste generator and the owner/authorised agent with respect to the discharge of trade waste into Council's sewerage system.
<i>Trade waste approval</i>	Written approval by Council for a person to discharge waste to Council's sewerage system. See <i>Trade waste agreement</i> and <i>Trade waste permit</i> .
<i>Trade waste generator</i>	Any person, owner, occupier, company or body whose activity produces or has the potential to produce trade waste.
<i>Trade Waste Officer</i>	Trade Waste Officer means a person holding appointment as a trade waste officer of the Council.
<i>Trade waste permit (Permit)</i>	Trade waste approval for the discharge of liquid waste classified as Category 1 or 2. It states the terms and conditions to be met by the trade waste generator and the owner/authorised agent with respect to the discharge of trade waste into Council's sewerage system.

3. OBJECTIVES

Purpose

To provide a liquid waste disposal service for domestic, commercial and industrial waste in accordance with the principles of environmental sustainability and in a manner which safeguards public health and is consistent with Water and Waste's responsibilities and obligations under Queensland legislation.

Objectives

- To safeguard public health and the environment.
- 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 Council's environmental authority issued by the EPA;
 - cause the treatment process to fail;
 - render effluent or biosolids 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 disposal and, maintenance and repair of damage to the sewerage system.
- To provide operational data on the volume and composition of industrial and commercial effluent to assist in the operation of the sewerage system, the design of augmentations or new sewerage systems and waste management reporting.
- To encourage waste minimisation and cleaner production, including waste prevention, recycling, and pre-treatment.
- To promote water conservation.
- To assist Council to meet its statutory obligations.
- 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.

Process

Council aims to achieve these objectives by a process which is transparent, equitable, accountable, abreast of best practice, and responsive to changing community needs and concerns.

Management Plan Instruments

The objectives will be achieved using a combination of Management Plan instruments, including:

- sewer admission limits (acceptable concentration limits for sewerable wastes);
- conditional trade waste approvals (permits and agreements);
- user pays pricing; and
- effluent improvement programs.

4. CONTROL OF TRADE WASTE

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

It is an offence to discharge trade waste to the sewer unless a trade waste approval has been issued by Council under section 180 of the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*.

Any person wishing to discharge trade waste to sewerage must apply for a trade waste approval (see section 8).

A trade waste approval is the written approval from Council that states the requirements and conditions under which discharge to sewer is allowed. Two (2) types of approval are referred to in this plan – a trade waste permit (Permit) for Category 1 and 2 wastes and a trade waste agreement (Agreement) for Category 3 wastes.

It is an offence for a person to discharge waste (including trade waste) other than uncontaminated stormwater to stormwater drainage (Part 3 Division 2 *Local Government Act 2009*).

4.1 Suspension or Cancellation of Trade Waste Approval

Grounds and procedures for suspension or cancellation of a trade waste approval are defined in section 183-184 of the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*.

Terms and conditions of a trade waste approval in respect of any matter occurring before the suspension or cancellation, including payment of charges owing, shall continue to have force and effect after the suspension or cancellation of the trade waste approval.

4.2 Penalties and Recovery of Costs

Council may prosecute any person who commits a breach of the relevant Acts and Regulations, or who refuses or neglects to comply with any direction or requirement by Council pursuant to the relevant Acts and Regulations. Penalties are set out in the appropriate Acts and Regulations, and include substantial fines.

Council may recover costs of repairing the damaged sewerage system from a person causing damage to the system by discharging unauthorised material, making an unauthorised connection or interfering with infrastructure.

5. SEWER ADMISSION LIMITS

Any waste discharged to Council's sewer must at all times comply with the Trade Waste Sewer Admission Limits as set out in Appendix 2 unless otherwise specified in the trade waste Permit or Agreement. These limits are subject to periodic review.

The sewer admission limits, unless otherwise specified in the trade waste approval, are absolute maximums.

The trade waste stream and domestic waste stream should, wherever 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.

Council requires that trade waste generators implement waste minimisation practices and install best practice pre-treatment processes to reduce both the volume and the contaminant load of wastes discharged to sewer.

The dilution of trade waste with water to achieve compliance with the sewer admission limits is prohibited. Council has obligations to avoid sewer overflows and consequently will impose limits on the rate and timing of trade waste discharges.

5.1 Effluent Improvement Programs

For Category 1 and 2 waste, the installation of a properly sized, approved best practice pre-treatment device together with an acceptable maintenance program in accordance with the trade waste approval conditions will, in most cases, be deemed to provide a satisfactory effluent with respect to the General Limit Parameter(s) (Appendix 2).

Council may, at its discretion, negotiate with a Category 3 trade waste generator for the acceptance of waste to sewerage that exceeds the Sewer Admission Limit(s) for certain General Limit Parameter(s) (Appendix 2). Additional charges (section 7.1.1) may apply for such parameters.

Where such an agreement is made, Council may require the trade waste generator to prepare, to the satisfaction of Council, an *effluent improvement program*. This program will include:

- a description of the effluent quantity and quality;
- provision for monitoring and reporting waste quantity and quality;
- an examination of waste prevention and recycling options;
- an examination of options for the conservation of water;
- a program involving the development of waste reduction and pre-treatment aimed at reducing contaminant levels over a period of not more than three (3) years to the prescribed admission limits. An action program must be provided, including expected outcomes, timelines and milestones; and
- a report for Council, including a summary of achievements and options.

Where Council requires an existing Category 3 trade waste generator to develop an *effluent improvement program* they will be advised of this requirement in writing. If, at the time the trade waste approval falls due for renewal, the holder of the approval has not completed a satisfactory effluent improvement program the approval holder is required to write to Council requesting an extension of time with reasons.

Council may issue a new trade waste approval, subject to conditions that:

- (a) a satisfactory effluent improvement program be submitted within 30 days, and
- (b) the trade waste approval may be varied (after submission of the effluent improvement program) as necessary to enforce the implementation of the program.

6.0 DISCHARGE CATEGORIES

All trade waste accepted to the sewer will be classified according to the following three (3) categories for the purposes of a trade waste approval, control and charging.

Parameter	Category 1 Low strength/low volume	Category 2 Low strength/high volume	Category 3 High strength/high volume
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD ₅), mg/L	<600	<600	>600

Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD), mg/L	<1200	<1200	>1200
Suspended Solids, mg/L	<600	<600	>600
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen, mg/L N	<150	<150	>150
Total Phosphorus, mg/L P	<50	<50	>50
Volume, kL/annum	Less than 500kL per Annum	More than 500kL per Annum	Any
Trade Waste Approval	Permit	Permit	Agreement
Charges	Annual Charges (see section 7.1.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantity based charge (see section 7.1.1) Minimum charges applies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantity/Quality charge on total annual load (see section 7.1.1) Calculated Application Fee

Acceptance of waste under any category is conditional on the waste meeting Council's Sewer Admission Limits (clause 5 and Appendix 2) unless otherwise specified in the Permit or Agreement.

Approval to discharge required – Agreement between Council and both the Owner (or Authorised Agent) and the trade waste Generator when the Owner is not the Generator;

Charge – Quantity and Quality charge on total annual load; Minimum fee applies (see clause 7.1).

It is the responsibility of the trade waste generator to install, operate and maintain “best practice” pre-treatment facilities to ensure sewer admission limits are not exceeded.

Should the admission limits be exceeded, the generator is required to obtain samples and provide report to Council. Continuous exceeding of approved admissions limits will incur additional fees as per 7.1.2(b).

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.

7. TRADE WASTE CHARGES AND FEES

Trade waste charges and fees are levied under sections 36, 973 and 1071a of the *Local Government Act*. Charges and fees to be levied for the ensuing financial year will be determined by Cook Shire Council resolution passed before or at the same time as the budget in any financial year.

Trade waste charges and fees for the current financial year are listed in Appendix 3 and on the Council's website under Fees and Charges, and are also available from Council on request.

7.1 Trade Waste Charges

Trade waste is divided into three (3) categories for charging purposes (section 6). Charges cover the cost of treatment and recurring administration and overhead costs associated with trade waste control.

Accounts for trade waste discharged to sewer will be:

- (a) forwarded annually for Category 1 and Category 2;
- (b) forwarded quarterly for Category 3;
- (c) a debt due by the owner (or lessee) of the premises; and
- (d) recoverable in the same manner as Council's Debt Recovery Processes.

7.1.1 General Trade Waste Charges

Charges will be structured as set out below, with unit charging rates being adopted and reviewed annually by Council as part of its budget (see Appendix 3).

Category 1:

An annual charge to cover the cost of treatment and recurring administration and overhead costs associated with trade waste control shall apply.

Category 2:

A quantity charge on total annual volume of trade waste discharged to the sewer to be calculated as follows:

$$C = Qk \quad \text{where} \quad \begin{array}{l} - C \text{ is the annual charge } (\$), \\ - Q \text{ is the annual volume (kL), and} \\ - k \text{ is the unit charge rate } (\$/\text{kL}). \end{array}$$

The unit charge, k, which incorporates both volume and load costs, is based on the total cost of providing and maintaining the sewerage system for the total annual wastewater flow to the sewerage plant(s). It includes administration and overhead costs associated with trade waste control.

Category 3:

A Quantity and Quality charge on the total annual discharge of trade waste to the sewer to be calculated as follows:

$$C = Qa + Qx_1n_1/1000 + Qx_2n_2/1000 + \quad \text{where} \quad \begin{array}{l} - C \text{ is the total annual charge } (\$), \\ - Q \text{ is the total annual discharge volume (kL),} \\ - a \text{ is the unit charge for volume } (\$/\text{kL}); \\ - x_1, x_2 \text{ are the average concentrations of pollutants} \\ \text{N1, N2 (mg/L);} \\ - n_1, n_2 \text{ are the unit charges for pollutants N1, N2} \\ (\$/\text{kg}); \\ - N1, N2 \text{ are the pollutants to be charged for.} \end{array}$$

Charges shall be made for BOD₅ (or COD), suspended solids, (oil/grease), nitrogen, phosphorus, heavy metals, etc.

A minimum charge to cover administration, inspection and compliance testing shall apply when the charges calculated by the above formula are less than the allocated cost for these services.

7.1.2 Additional Charges for Over Limit Discharge

This charge applies:

- (a) Where Council agrees to accept to sewerage waste which has properties in excess of those defined in General Limits (Schedule 1, Appendix 2) of the Sewer Admission Limits (the conditions of acceptance are defined in the trade waste approval).
- (b) Where a trade waste generator continually discharges waste to sewer in excess of the limits defined in the trade waste approval or the Sewer Admission Limits (Appendix 2) without approval to exceed the limits.

This additional charge shall apply to each non-complying parameter.

The formula for calculation shall be:

$$\text{Charge} = (\text{actual/approved})^d \times \text{charge rate } (\$/\text{kg}) \times \text{kg pollutant}$$

where

- d is a constant to be determined by Council;
- the minimum ratio for (actual/approved) is 1.0; and
- approved means the sewer admission limit value or other negotiated value defined in the Permit or Agreement.

The period of the charge will be the time period, based on the sampling frequency, over which the limits are considered by Council to have been exceeded.

Exceeding the approved limit is an offence under the *Act*.

7.1.3 Equivalent Arrestor Charges

This charge applies where an existing waste stream requires the installation of an arrestor to provide best practice pre-treatment for Category 1 or Category 2 wastes, but site specific conditions do not allow for appropriate devices to be installed.

In addition to the normal Category 1 or Category 2 charges, (section 7.1.1) a charge equal to the average cost paid by other trade waste generators of similar waste type and quantity, to have arrestors installed and regularly cleaned, will apply.

7.1.4 Charges for Food Waste Disposal Units

Trade waste Generators in Categories 1 and 2 with food waste disposal units (garbage grinders, fruit and vegetable peelers) and/or Macerators shall be charged a fee based on the power of the motor. This charge will apply in addition to general charges under section 7.1.1.

Rated Power, kilo watts/hour

Category A	-	< 400
Category B	-	400 – 700
Category C	-	700 – 1000
Category D	-	1000 – 1500
Category E	-	1500 – 2000
Category F	-	> 2000

7.2 Trade Waste Fees

7.2.1 Inspection and Analysis Fees

The trade waste charges in all categories (section 7.1.1) allow for a defined number of inspections and quality analyses. Where additional inspections and laboratory analyses are required because of non-compliance with trade waste approval conditions, full costs will be recovered from the holder of the approval.

The cost of inspection shall be based on full cost recovery. The full cost of laboratory analyses shall be recovered.

7.2.2 Application Fees

Applications for an approval to discharge trade waste must be accompanied with the prescribed application fee.

The application fee shall be the actual costs of processing and drawing up an approval for Category 3 wastes.

An Application fee shall be charged for applications for Category 1 and Category 2 waste Permits.

7.2.3 Septic Tank and Other Liquid Waste Fees

Licensed liquid waste disposal contractors (section 13) disposing of septic tank, portable toilet or other approved liquid waste to the sewer or sewage treatment plant under approved conditions shall be charged on a calculated basis (\$/kL) which takes account of both the volume and strength of the waste.

7.2.4 Additional Charges

Where Council agrees to accept to the sewer waste which has properties in excess of those defined in the General Limits (Appendix 2) of the Sewer Admissions Limits, an additional charge will apply for each agreed non-complying parameter. The formula for calculation shall be:

$$\text{Charge} = (\text{actual/approved})^d \times \text{charge rate (\$/kg)} \times \text{kg pollutant}$$

Where:

- **D** is a constant to be determined by Council for each non-complying parameter under consideration at the time;
- the **minimum ratio** for (actual/approved) is 1.0; and
- **approved** means the sewer admission limit value or other negotiated value defined in the Permit or Agreement.

The period of the charge will be the time period, based on the sampling frequency, over which the limits are considered to have been exceeded.

Exceeding the approved limit is an offence under the *Act*.

7.2.5 Penalty Charges for Non-Servicing of Arrestors

Penalty charges based on equivalent arrestor charges (section 7.1.2) may be applied in the instance of non-servicing of arrestors or failing to comply with the servicing requirements in the conditions of the Trade Waste Permit.

7.3 Refunds or Transfer on Cessation of Discharge

No refunds on cessation of discharge shall apply.

8. APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Any person wishing to discharge trade waste to sewer must make a written application for an approval to discharge. Applicants should contact Council for advice on the type of application required and the procedures for obtaining approval.

Applications must be lodged prior to commencement of trading. Examples of appropriate times for lodging applications may include:

- during the processing of a Building Application for new premises or extensions intended for industrial and/or commercial usage;
- change in tenancy of such premises;
- change of ownership 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 trade waste permit or approval has been issued;
- where a change in process technology occurs.

Liquid waste disposal contractors wishing to discharge septic tank, portable toilet waste or other approved holding tank or liquid waste to the sewer or sewage treatment plant must be licensed (section 13) and must apply for an approval.

Application forms are available from the Council upon request, or can be downloaded from Cook Shire Council's Website under Council – Forms <http://www.cook.qld.gov.au/council/council-forms>.

Assistance with completing the application form may be obtained:

In person from:

Cook Shire Council
10 Furneaux Street
COOKTOWN QLD 4895

By writing to:

Cook Shire Council
PO Box 3
COOKTOWN QLD 4895

By sending an email to:

mail@cook.qld.gov.au

By calling:

(07) 4082 0500

Failure to provide all required information may result in delays in approvals being issued.

Applications for approval to discharge Category 3 wastes are subject to an Agreement being negotiated and must be accompanied by the Application Fee (section 7.2).

Applications should include details of the proposed method of pre-treatment to be used to ensure waste meets sewer admission limits. Two (2) copies of Treatment Plans should be forwarded to Council with the application. One (1) copy will be returned stamped “approved – trade waste” if the proposal is satisfactory.

Any plumbing and drainage work associated with the installation of any treatment process shall be in accordance with the *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2019* and the standard *Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2019*, the applicable National Plumbing and Drainage Codes and the approved sewerage drainage plan. Work must be carried out by a licensed plumber and drainer.

Applicants are referred to Council’s publication Pre-treatment Guidelines for Trade Waste Discharges for further guidance. A copy is available on Council’s website via this link: <http://www.cook.qld.gov.au/council/documents/policies> or at the contact details listed above.

Where a waste is deemed to be non-sewerable, a Permit/Agreement will **not** be issued and alternative arrangements for disposal of wastes must be made. Advice on treatment and disposal options for non-sewerable waste may be obtained from Council’s Environmental Health Officer, and detailed advice should be sought from appropriately qualified private consultants.

9. PERMITS AND AGREEMENTS

9.1 Permits

A trade waste generator producing waste assessed as suitable for sewer discharge and classified as Category 1 or Category 2 may be issued with a written trade waste approval in the form of a trade waste permit (Permit) which shall remain in force for the specified period unless cancelled sooner.

Trade Waste Permits are not transferable.

The Permit states the terms and conditions the holder of the Permit must observe to discharge trade waste to Council’s sewerage system. These include, but are not limited to:

- expiry/renewal date (to be renewed annually);
- 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;
- provisions for measurement and sampling of discharge prior to entry to sewer;
- details of any pre-treatment required;
- conditions for maintenance of, and removal of waste from, pre-treatment equipment including the frequency of cleaning and waste transporter to be used;

- records to be kept concerning the cleaning and maintenance of pre-treatment equipment;
- the obligations of the holder of the Permit to pay fees and additional charges due to the non-compliance (e.g. testing, inspections); and
- any other conditions considered by Council to be appropriate.

9.2 Agreements

A trade waste generator producing waste assessed as suitable for sewer discharge and classified as Category 3 may be issued with a written trade waste approval in the form of a trade waste agreement (Agreement). The Agreement shall remain in force for the specified period unless cancelled sooner.

Trade Waste Agreements are not transferable.

The Agreement states the terms and conditions the holder of the Agreement must observe to discharge trade waste to Council's sewerage. These include but are not limited to:

- expiry/renewal date;
- the location of the premises and nature of the occupancy;
- a statement that the quality of waste shall comply with Council's sewer-admission limits as specified in Appendix 2 of the Trade Waste Environmental Management Plan (or attached to the Agreement) and details of any allowed variations;
- quantity of waste that may be discharged;
- rate of discharge – maximum instantaneous, maximum daily;
- hours of day, day of week discharge is allowed;
- details of self-regulation monitoring program, including:
 - sampling point;
 - frequency of sampling;
 - method of sample collection and type of sample to be collected;
 - analyses required;
 - methods of analyses;
 - laboratory to be used; and
 - 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 failure of sampling program or flow measurement instrumentation;
- provision for measurement and sampling of discharge prior to entry to sewer;
- pre-treatment processes to be used;
- conditions for maintenance of, and removal of waste from, pre-treatment equipment including the frequency of cleaning, waste transporter to be used;
- records to be kept concerning the cleaning and maintenance of pre-treatment equipment and disposal of waste;
- the obligation of the trade waste generator concerning any variations to operation or treatment processes that may affect discharge quantity or quality including change of business type;
- a statement that the trade waste charges and fees apply and shall be paid in accordance with section 7 of the Trade Waste Environmental Management Plan; and

- any other conditions relevant to the particular discharge as agreed.

10. INSPECTION AND MONITORING

For the purpose of monitoring and auditing the conditions of discharge, Council shall routinely and randomly inspect all premises occupied by the holder of a trade waste approval. Inspections will also be carried out when a breach of the approval is suspected.

Inspections may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Check of all chemical storage areas to ensure that they are properly bunded and are not improperly connected to the sewer.
- Checks to ensure that there are no illegal stormwater connections to the trade waste or sewerage systems.
- Checks to ensure that there is no illegal trade waste connections to storm water or sewer and that there is no potential for trade waste to overflow improperly to sewer, stormwater or waterways.
- Checks to ensure that pre-treatment facilities are regularly and properly serviced and standby equipment is available where necessary.
- Monitoring of strength and flow is undertaken as required under the trade waste approval.
- Assessment of work practices to ensure that they do not result in a breach of the trade waste approval or legislation.

10.1 Inspection Chambers and/or Gauging Facility

Category 3 waste shall be discharged to Council's sewerage system via a suitable inspection chamber and/or gauging facility. The inspection chamber and/or gauging facility shall be located on the trade waste discharge line in an area which is accessible at all times to Council' Water and Wastewater Officers thus allowing for sampling and/or monitoring equipment to be installed and operated.

A suitable 240 volt power outlet and standard water supply outlet with back-flow prevention device installed in accordance with AS 3500 Part 1 and AS 2845.3 and approved by Council is required at all gauging facility sites.

For new Category 2 and 3 installations, the trade waste discharge line shall be separate from the domestic waste discharge line. For existing installations retrofitting is not required except where it may be done during any proposed upgrading or alterations to the installation.

Where a commercial or industrial premises generates trade waste but does not discharge trade waste to Council's sewerage system, a suitable inspection point shall be installed on the sanitary drain, in an accessible location within the property boundary and/or before connecting into the Council sewer. This is to enable checks to be made to ensure that waste is not being discharged to sewer.

Arrestor trap installations and other pre-treatment devices on premises discharging Category 1 and 2 waste shall have an inspection opening provided externally to the building, within the premises, at finished ground level.

11. DETERMINATION OF DISCHARGE QUANTITY

11.1 Category 1 and 2

In the absence of an approved trade waste flow meter, the volume of trade waste discharged shall be estimated from total metered water consumption, less an allowance for domestic waste based on 136 kL/annum per pedestal and an allowance for water consumed on the property, based on a discharge factor.

Investigations have established a basis for estimation of the proportion of water consumption discharged as trade waste by various types of trade and manufacturing processes. These will form the basis of the initial fraction applied when a permit is issued. Where there is no fraction available, 100 per cent discharge will be assumed.

Industry	Discharge %
Cold Stores	7
Concrete Batching	7
Commercial Buildings / Office Blocks	95
Dye Houses	75
Hotels / Motels	100
Industrial Laundries	92
Registered Clubs	100
Restaurants / Food Bars	95
Service Stations	70
Service Stations with Car Wash	80
Shopping Centres	70
Warehouse (dry)	70

Discharge Factors for Estimating Volume of Trade Waste from Water Consumption

(Source: DPI Water Resources, Client Advisory Services Division, Technical Bulletin TB 6/1992 Trade Waste – Waste Characterisation)

Where individual generators have information which would indicate a departure from these bases, application may be made for reconsideration of the fraction used.

High volume Category 2 generators may, and are encouraged to, install an approved flow measurement device to be calibrated as specified in the Permit conditions.

11.2 Category 3

The volume of trade waste discharged to the sewer shall be measured by an approved flow measurement device calibrated as specified in the Agreement. This should be located on the trade waste discharge stream which should be separate from the domestic waste discharge stream.

Where the flow measured includes domestic waste, an allowance of 100 kL/annum per pedestal shall be made.

Trade waste generators exempt from installing a flow measurement device shall have the volume of discharge estimated as under section 11.1.

12. DETERMINATION OF DISCHARGE QUALITY

12.1 Category 1 and 2

Quality measurements for Category 1 and 2 discharges are required for compliance checks only. This shall be done by Council as part of the inspection and monitoring program. The cost shall be covered by the annual trade waste charge except where additional inspection and testing is required because of non-compliance when Council shall charge the holder of the approval as prescribed in section 7.2.

12.2 Category 3

Quality measurements are required for both charging and compliance purposes.

For charging purposes a system of self-monitoring by the discharger shall be used to collect sufficient data to enable the average mass load for the designated charging period to be calculated. Where pre-treatment is required to meet sewer admission limits for specified parameters, self-monitoring will be required for those parameters, or a suitable surrogate, to confirm satisfactory pre-treatment.

Requirements for self-monitoring and auditing by Council shall be specified in the Agreement.

The holder of the Agreement shall meet all costs of self-monitoring.

Council shall inspect the premises and collect and analyse samples for overall assessment of compliance with Sewer Admission Limits and Agreement conditions as part of its inspection and monitoring program. The cost is covered by the annual trade waste charge.

Where additional inspection and testing is required to be done by Council as a result of non-compliance, Council shall charge the holder of the Agreement as prescribed in section 7.2.

13. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL WASTES

13.1 Removal of Regulated Waste from Premise

Removal of regulated waste from a premises shall only be carried out by waste transporters licensed in accordance with the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* and transported, stored, treated or disposed of in accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Protection Regulation 2008*.

No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged directly or indirectly to the sewerage, wastes from any waste transport vehicle without a trade waste approval.

Removal and disposal of septic tank wastes, portable toilet waste and other approved waste shall only be done by a licensed waste transporter. Such waste may be disposed of within the sewerage system in accordance with the approved conditions.

Waste from grease and oil arrestors, other than treated effluent from approved installations (section 13.2), shall not be disposed of into the sewerage system. Such wastes shall be disposed of in a manner and/or at a site approved in accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* and the *Environmental Protection Regulation 2008* and operated in accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Protection Regulation 2008*.

All waste transporters shall be required to maintain records in accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Protection Regulation 2008* to account for all waste collected, and disposed of within or outside Councils' local government area from pre-treatment facilities.

Trade waste charges in accordance with Section 7.1 and Council's Water and Wastewater fees and charges will apply to all transported liquid and sludge waste approved for discharge to sewerage.

Advice on the disposal of liquid waste not suitable for discharge to sewerage may be obtained from:

In person from:

Cook Shire Council
10 Furneaux Street
COOKTOWN QLD 4895

By writing to:

Cook Shire Council
PO Box 3
COOKTOWN QLD 4895

By sending an email to:

mail@cook.qld.gov.au

By calling:

(07) 4082 0500

13.2 Arrestor Installations

Where grease and oil arrestor installations are required to pre-treat waste before discharge to the sewer they must be of a design and capacity approved by Council.

In a situation where a grease arrestor is required for pre-treatment but cannot be installed because of specific site constraints, an additional charge (clause 7.2.3) will apply.

13.2.1 Grease Arrestors

Guidance on the sizing and installation of grease arrestors is available from:

- Council's Pre-treatment Guidelines for Trade Waste Discharges

The maximum capacity of an individual grease arrestor shall be 2,000 litres. Where the capacity requirement for a premises is greater than 2,000 litres, additional arrestors shall be used, with each arrestor to be a discrete installation separately treating a defined waste stream.

Grease arrestors must be located so as to allow appropriate access for inspection, pump out and cleaning. Where practicable, a hose cock with suitable backflow prevention is to be provided for cleaning. The location must be approved by Council prior to installation.

For the purpose of odour control, Council may, at its discretion, require grease arrestors to be fitted with a full length and width opening, gas tight covers and frames.

The use of solvents, enzymes, mutant or natural bacterial cultures, odour control agents or pesticides in grease arrestors is prohibited unless specifically approved by Council. Conditional approval may be given to allow the holder of the Agreement or Permit to demonstrate to Council that the product to be used does not adversely impact on the sewerage system or the environment.

Maintenance cleaning of grease arrestors shall be carried out on a regular basis in accordance with conditions of the trade waste approval by a waste transporter licensed in accordance with the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* and the *Environmental Protection Regulation 2008*.

In a situation where a grease arrestor is required for pre-treatment but cannot be installed because of specific site constraints an equivalent arrestor charge (Section 7.1.3) will apply.

All final decisions on the size and type of grease arrestors will be made by Council's Plumbing Inspector.

13.2.2 Mineral Oil Arrestors

Appropriate sized mineral (petroleum) oil arrestors for the treatment of oily wastewater will be approved in most circumstances. Acceptable methods include:

- coalescing plate separators;
- vertical gravity separators;
- membrane technology;
- diffused air flotation (DAF);
- chemical precipitation;
- hydrocyclones; and
- other approved apparatus/methods.

Each application will be assessed on the nature of the oily waste to be treated, the proposed treatment method and site location.

Only "Quick Break" detergents and degreasers may be used in mineral oil separators.

Maintenance cleaning of mineral oil arrestors shall be carried out on a regular basis in accordance with conditions of the trade waste approval. Removal of oily water shall be done by a waste transporter licensed in accordance with the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* and the *Environmental Protection Regulation 2008*.

13.2.3 Other Arrestor Applications

Arrestor installations may be used for other trade waste treatment applications such as:

- silt separation;
- oil and grease (non-petroleum);

- cooling;
- neutralisation; and
- other specific applications approved by Council.

Each application will be assessed on the nature of the waste to be treated, the proposed treatment method and site location.

Maintenance cleaning of arrestors shall be carried out on a regular basis in accordance with conditions of the trade waste approval by a waste transporter licensed in accordance with the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* and the *Environmental Protection Regulation 2008*.

13.3 Enzymes/Biological Additives

13.3.1 Enzyme and Bacterial Cultures

Enzyme and mutant bacterial cultures may be permitted for use in certain biological pre-treatment systems by way of specific application to Council.

Applicants will need to demonstrate to Council that the product to be used does not adversely impact on the sewerage system or the environment.

13.3.2 Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)

Any person wishing to discharge commercial products containing genetically modified organisms to sewerage must first obtain approval for release to coastal and inland waters from the Genetic Manipulation Advisory Committee, Canberra. Council may then grant approval for the discharge to sewer.

Laboratories and other facilities which culture, package or transport GMOs should have in place sufficient procedures and pre-treatment equipment to ensure that no live GMOs are discharged to sewerage.

13.4 Food Waste Disposal Units

Food waste disposal units (garbage grinders / in sink disposal units and/or macerators and potato peelers) may be approved for non-domestic use by specific application to Council. Where installation is approved, an annual charge based on motor power shall be made (Section 7.1.2) for Category 1 and Category 2 approvals.

13.5 Commercial Swimming Pools/Ornamental Ponds

The back wash and pool water from commercial and public swimming pools and ornamental ponds constitute a trade waste and may not be discharged to sewer without approval through the issue of a trade waste approval, *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* section 193(3). Trade waste charges in accordance with the discharge category will apply.

This policy approves the discharge of swimming pool backwash water to sewer for class 1a buildings (houses) as defined in the *Building Code of Australia*.

13.6 Medical, Clinical, Veterinary and Infectious Wastes

Solid wastes from any hospital, clinic, office or surgery of a medical or veterinary facility or laboratory, convalescent or nursing home or health transport facility; including, but not limited to, hypodermic needles, syringes, instruments, utensils, swabs, dressings,

bandages, or any paper or plastic item of a disposable nature, or any portions of human or animal anatomy; shall not be discharged to the sewer.

Infectious or hazardous wastes deemed to pose a threat to public health and safety may not be discharged to the sewer without approval of Council. Such wastes shall require treatment to render them non-infectious or non-hazardous prior to discharge. When approved for discharge, trade waste charges will apply.

13.7 Containment of Toxic/Hazardous Substances

Any potentially toxic or hazardous substances shall be stored in bunded areas where leaks, spillage, or overflows cannot be drained by gravity or by any automated mechanical means to the sewer or the stormwater drainage system.

Bunding of toxic or hazardous substances must meet recommendations of applicable best practice guidelines, standards, or codes of practice.

13.8 Discharge of Liquid Wastes from Buses, Aircraft and Vessels

13.8.1 Vessels

Depending on the quality, the discharge from certain galley and toilet wastes from vessels may be permitted via approved pump out facilities at Ports and Marinas. The operator of such facilities must hold an approval for discharge to sewerage.

Charges in accordance with the category classification will apply.

The discharge of untreated bilge water to sewer is prohibited.

13.8.2 Buses, Aircraft, Recreational Vehicles

The discharge of toilet waste from buses, aircraft or other recreational vehicles may be permitted at approved discharge locations such as bus or transport depots, terminals, and caravan parks. The owner of the premises on which such facilities are located must hold a trade waste approval and discharge must be in accordance with the approval conditions.

Charges in accordance with section 7.2 will apply.

13.9 Landfill Leachate and Disposal Facility Wastewater

Leachate from landfill sites and wastewater from waste treatment/disposal facilities constitutes a trade waste and may not be discharged to sewer without approval through the issue of a trade waste approval.

Charges in accordance with the discharge category classification will apply.

13.10 Discharge from Open Areas

The discharge of rainwater and stormwater to the sewer is prohibited.

The ingress of surface water from a potentially contaminated open area to the sewerage system can cause severe operational problems to Water and Wastewater infrastructure. However, there may be circumstances when it is environmentally beneficial to accept these wastes to the sewer under strict controls.

The discharge to sewer from any potentially contaminated open area that is raised or bunded may be considered provided the quality and quantity requirements of this plan are met.

Applicants should note that an open area approval is not an alternative to appropriate management of polluted areas such as roofing or other methods to keep water away from an open area. Applicants must demonstrate to Council that all appropriate measures to keep runoff water away from the potentially contaminated open area have been taken.

A trade waste approval is required to discharge such waste.

All applications for sewer discharge from open areas must have controls incorporated in the design that will, in the opinion of Council's Water and Wastewater department, ensure that:

- all contaminated liquid waste is pumped to the sewer at a rate acceptable to Water and Wastewater department;
- all discharge to the sewer ceases automatically after a predetermined level of rainfall volume (mm) and/or intensity (mm/hr) to be set by Council's Water and Wastewater department;
- the first flush volume is collected and segregated during wet weather with additional runoff directed to the storm water system. Applicants should seek advice from Council on the required first flush volumes to be collected;
- the first flush volume collected is pumped to the sewer, after any necessary pre-treatment, no sooner than one (1) hour after cessation of rain; and
- a suitable device for the determination of sewer discharge flow and volume to be installed.

Charges in accordance with the discharge category classification will apply.

13.11 Dental Facilities

A Trade Waste Permit will not be required for Dental facilities provided any waste waters generated are discharged to the sewer through an Amalgam Separator.

Note: If Film processing is carried out on site, a Trade Waste Permit and additional pre-treatment may be required.

13.12 Automatic Car Wash Waste

At least 50 per cent of all water used in an automatic car wash must be re-circulated.

14. DISCRETIONARY POWER

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

15. REFERENCE TO COUNCIL

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

16. IMPLEMENTATION

This plan will become effective immediately.

Appendix 1

SELECTED LEGISLATION RELEVANT TO TRADE WASTE

Water Supply (Safety and Reliability Act) 2008

Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018

Environmental Protection Act 1994

Environmental Protection Regulation 2008

Environmental Protection Policy (Water) 2009

Local Government Act 2009

Planning Act 2016

Radiation Safety Act 1999

Radiation Safety Regulation 2010

Gene Technology (Queensland) Act 2016

Gene Technology Act 2001 (Commonwealth Legislation)

Appendix 2

SEWER ADMISSION STANDARDS

The upper limits for the quality of trade waste discharged to the sewer for all categories are set out below. These admission limits shall apply from October 2019. They are subject to periodic review.

I. GENERAL LIMITS

Parameter	Concentration mg/L except*
Temperature *	<38°C
pH *	6 – 10
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD5) + Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) + Total Organic Carbon (TOC) + Suspended Solids + Total dissolved solids (TDS) + Total oil/grease (freon extractable)	600 mg/L 1200 mg/L 1200 mg/L 600 mg/L 200
Gross solids *	non faecal gross solids shall have a maximum linear dimension of less than 20mm and a quiescent settling rate of less than 3m/hr.
Colour *	limited such as not to give any discernible colour in treatment works discharge
Odour *	not detectable in 1% dilution or causing an odour problem in Council's sewerage system
Chlorine (as Cl ₂)	10
Sulphate (as SO ₄ ⁻⁻)#	2000
Sulphite (as SO ₂)	100
Surfactants – Anionic (MBAS)	500
Aluminium (as Al)#	100
Iron (as Fe)#	100
Ammonia plus ammonium ion (as N)#	100
total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (as N)#	150
Phosphorus (Total P)#	50
Manganese (as Mn)	100
NOTE: + the total mass load and the capacity of the sewerage system to accept the load shall be considered for each application. # Council may in some circumstances accept waste containing higher concentrations of these substances. Additional charges for treatment will apply.	

II. PROHIBITED DISCHARGES

- Prohibited substances as defined in Schedule 1 of the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability Act) 2008*.
- Flammable/explosive substances.
- Radioactive substances except as allowed under the *Radiation Safety Act 1999* and the *Radiation Safety Regulation 2010*.
- Pathological and infectious waste and Cytotoxic waste as allowed for under the *National Guidelines for Waste Management in the Health Industry*, National Health and Medical Research Council, 1999.
- Genetically modified (engineered) organisms.

- Rainwater and stormwater and uncontaminated water.

III. SPECIFIC LIMITS - INORGANIC

Parameter	Concentration mg/L
Boron (B)	100
Bromine (Br ₂)	10
Fluoride (F ⁻)	30
Cyanide (CN ⁻)	5
Sulphide (S ⁻⁻)	5

IV. SPECIFIC LIMITS - METALS

Parameter	Maximum Concentration mg/L	Maximum Daily Mass Load g/day
Arsenic (As)	5	15
Cadmium (Cd)	2	6
Chromium (Cr) Total	20	75*
Hexavalent	10	
Cobalt (Co)	10	30
Copper (Cu)	10	75
Lead (Pb)	10	30
Mercury (Hg)	0.05	0.15
Nickel (Ni)	10	30
Selenium (Se)	5	15
Silver (Ag)	5	15
Tin (Sn)	10	30
Zinc (Zn)	10	75
Either the concentration or mass load method may be utilized, however once the mass load is exceeded only the concentration is to be used.		
* For discharges above the Maximum Daily Mass Load, Hexavalent Cr must be reduced to trivalent Cr.		

V. SPECIFIC LIMITS - ORGANIC

Council's Water and Wastewater department may request specific demonstrable evidence based on degradability and toxicity concerning substances listed below:

Parameter	Maximum Concentration on mg/L
Phenolic compounds (as Phenol)	100
Pentachlorophenol	5
Petroleum hydrocarbons	30
Halogenated Aliphatic Hydrocarbons	5

V. SPECIFIC LIMITS – ORGANIC (Cont'd)

Parameter	Maximum Concentration on mg/L
Halogenated Aromatic Hydrocarbons (HAHs)	0.002
Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)	0.002
Polybrominated Biphenyls (PBBs)	0.002
Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)	5
Pesticides: General (insecticides/herbicides/fungicides)**	1.0
Pesticides: Organophosphates Azinphos – methyl Azinphos – ethyl Coumaphos Demeton Dichlorvos Dimethoate Disulfoton Fenitrothion Fenithion Malathion Methamidophos Mevinphos Omethoate Oxydemeton – methyl Parathion Triazophos Trichlorfon	0.1
Pesticides: Organochlorines Aldrin Chlordane DDT Dieldrin Heptachlor Lindane	0.001 0.006 0.003 0.001 0.003 1.100

** This category covers all pesticides other than those specifically listed under organophosphate and organochlorine pesticides.

VI. Others

Any substance not listed in the above tables is a prohibited discharge and may not be discharged without prior approval of Water and Wastewater. Council's Water and Wastewater department may request specific demonstrable evidence based on degradability and toxicity for any substance when assessing acceptance to sewer.