

OP8136 - Trade Waste Policy

Policy Owner	Executive Manager Customer and Community
Policy Author	Customer Compliance Team Leader
Supporting Legislation and Documents	<i>South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009</i> <i>Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008</i> <i>Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018</i> <i>Standard Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003</i> <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> Environmental Protection Regulation 2008 <i>Sustainable Planning Act 2009</i> Pr9660 - Netserv Plan Part A
Documents Directly Related	Pr8700 - Trade Waste Management Plan Pr9011- Trade Waste Enforcement Procedure

1. Policy Statement

Unitywater will provide a liquid waste disposal service for non-domestic, commercial and industrial waste in accordance with the principles of ecological sustainability and in a manner which safeguards public health, consistent with Unitywater’s legislative obligations.

Unitywater's will accept, subject to conditions, biodegradable waste into the sewerage system, provided that:

- The system has adequate capacity to effectively collect, transport and treat the waste;
- The waste does not hinder the recycling of by-products; and
- In accordance with the principles of ecological sustainability and eco-efficiency, all practicable waste minimisation, recycling and reuse options have been applied by the customer.

2. Purpose and Objectives

The key features of Unitywater’s trade waste management approach are:

- A two staged risk-based assessment system;
- Mandatory and target sewer admission limits;
- Three trade waste category system; and
- A strategy of property-based billing to the owner for sewerage volumetric and generator-based permitting based on Unitywater’s Trade Waste Management Plan risk assessment.

The purpose of this Trade Waste Policy is to outline Unitywater’s principles for trade waste management and provide stakeholders with information on Unitywater’s liquid waste disposal service for non-domestic, commercial and industrial waste.

The specific objectives of the Unitywater’s trade waste management approach are as follows:

- To prevent harm or injury to sewerage employees and general public;
- To safeguard the sewerage system against damage, blockage and/or surcharging;
- To minimise environmental harm;

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- To encourage waste minimisation and cleaner production/pollution prevention, including waste prevention, recycling and appropriate pre-treatment;
- To promote water conservation;
- To exclude non-biodegradable and potentially harmful substances that may:
 - Cause non-compliance with statutory licence approval conditions;
 - Cause the treatment process to fail;
 - Affect the efficiency of the treatment process or cause or increase the generation of objectionable odours;
 - Render effluent or biosolids unacceptable for reuse or disposal;
 - Cause any other detriment to the environment; or
 - Physically damage infrastructure;
- To move Unitywater towards a wastewater source management philosophy as outlined in the National Wastewater Source Management Guidelines;
- To encourage a co-operative and consultative approach with industry to resolve non-compliance issues with respect to trade waste discharges to sewer;
- To equitably recover the cost of services to commerce and industry including the cost of conveyance, treatment and disposal, maintenance and repair of damage to the sewerage system;
- To protect and assist in the operation of the sewerage system and the design of augmentations or new sewerage systems by providing operational data on the volume and composition of trade waste; and
- 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.

Persons who require approval to discharge trade waste

A person must not discharge trade waste into Unitywater's sewerage network without written consent from Unitywater. Any person wishing to discharge trade waste to sewer must apply to Unitywater for a trade waste approval.

A trade waste approval is the written approval from Unitywater that states the requirements and conditions under which discharge to sewer is allowed. Approval for the discharge of trade waste is granted in the form of a Trade Waste Permit or a Trade Waste Agreement, depending on the level of risk Unitywater perceives the discharge poses to the health and safety of personnel or to the condition of sewerage assets. Acceptance of any given trade waste to sewer shall always be at the discretion of Unitywater.

Trade Waste Management

Trade Waste discharges will be categorised according to the risk the discharge poses to the sewerage system.

For details of how individual trade waste generators will be assessed and managed refer to the Trade Waste Management Plan.

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It may be necessary to install equipment to treat the trade waste before it is discharged into the sewer. For customers installing 'off the shelf' devices such as grease traps, etc. only pre-treatment products that are listed on Unitywater's approved pre - treatment devices register may be used without written consent. Refer to Unitywater's Trade Waste Management Plan.

Suspension or Cancellation of Trade Waste Approval

Each of the following is a ground for the suspension or cancellation of a trade waste approval:

- The customer has contravened a condition of the approval;
- The customer has contravened a provision of the legislation (including this policy);
- The terms of the approval are no longer appropriate because the circumstances under which wastes are generated by the holder of the approval have significantly changed since the approval was given;
- Urgent action is necessary in the interests of public health or safety to prevent environmental harm or prevent damage to Unitywater's sewerage system; and
- Where applicable, trade waste will be suspended or cancelled in accordance with the relevant legislation.

Penalties and Enforcement

A trade waste customer who is found to be non-compliant with their trade waste approval will be managed in accordance with the Trade Waste Enforcement Procedure by way of a 5 stage process.



Trade Waste Charges and Fees

Trade waste charges and fees will be levied in accordance with Unitywater's Schedule of Fees and Charges. The calculation of these fees is based on the pricing principle of 'user pays' and aims to recover the full costs of treating and disposing of trade waste.

3. Policy Scope/Coverage

This Trade Waste Policy is intended to provide information about Unitywater's trade waste management approach to:

- Any person (trade waste generator) intending to discharge a trade waste into Unitywater's sewerage network;
- An owner of a premises where trade waste is being discharged into Unitywater's sewerage network;
- Environmental regulators of Unitywater's systems;
- Unitywater staff; and
- Liquid waste carriers who discharge waste to Unitywater's sewerage system.

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4. Roles and Responsibilities

The Sustainable Infrastructure Solutions Business Unit - Trade Waste Section is responsible for the implementation and ongoing administration of this Policy.

5. Definitions

Refer to Trade Waste Management Plan.