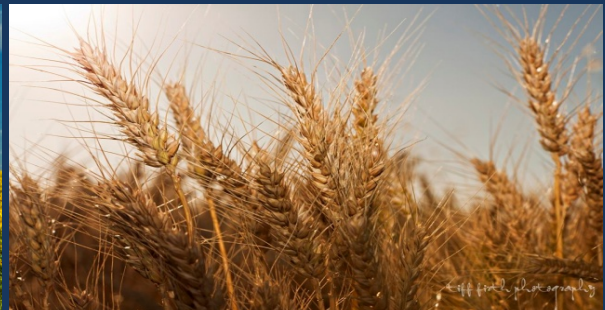




LOWER EYRE
COUNCIL

Trade Waste Policy



“Working with our Rural & Coastal Communities”

	<h2>DEV-POL-06 – TRADE WASTE</h2>	Version No:	1.1
		Issued:	July 2023
		Next Review:	November 2026

Responsible Department:	Development & Environmental Services
Policy Adopted:	19/07/2023
Minute Reference:	OCM/23/096
Applicable Legislation:	Water Industry Act 2012 and Regulations 2012 Public Health (Wastewater) Regulations 2013
Related Policies/Procedures:	Nil.
Review Frequency:	Upon Local Government Elections or legislative change

1. INTRODUCTION

Council owns and operates four Community Wastewater Management Systems (CWMS) which collect outflows from septic tanks servicing households and businesses in Cummins, Coffin Bay, North Shields and Tulka and delivers flows to Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTP) for treatment prior to reuse on public parks and gardens.

WWTP are susceptible to malfunction if trade wastes, chemicals, petroleum products and other discharges not normally associated with household wastewater flows reach the plant. This may also include inflows of clean water, such as large swimming pool backwash flows which generate large volumes of water that may overload the capacity of parts of the collection system at certain times.

This document outlines Council's policy and approach to trade waste management, as well as providing information about the standards for trade waste discharge to the CWMS.

2. TRADE WASTE POLICY STATEMENT

Council is committed to working towards a sustainable and effective wastewater management and reuse outcome. The trade waste management program is aimed at working with the industrial and commercial customers connected to the CWMS. In order to achieve this goal and manage trade waste effectively, Council's policy is to:

- Manage and control trade waste discharges into the CWMS to protect:
 - the health and safety of CWMS workers likely to come into contact with waste flows
 - the integrity of the CWMS physical components and assets
 - the WWTP processes and functionality
 - the environment, as trade waste can impact on the receiving environment via the reuse irrigation systems
- Facilitate and provide opportunities for re-use of treated wastewater and sludge where appropriate,
- Provide leadership through education of customers and the promotion of water conservation, cleaner production, waste minimisation and the principles outlined in this policy,
- Provide an efficient, safe and cost effective trade waste disposal pathway.

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2. TRADE WASTE POLICY STATEMENT

CONT'D:

There is a limit to the capacity and capability of the existing CWMS infrastructure (both collection networks and treatment plants) to accept trade waste discharges both in terms of volume and physical/chemical characteristics.

The Councils policy is to allow for multiple trade waste customers to have access to the CWMS, however, acceptance of trade waste from a potential/existing customer is always subject to the agreement of and at the complete discretion of the Council. This discretion is based on commercial and technical considerations.

3. OVERVIEW OF THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Council is obliged to comply with the requirements of the following legislation which impact directly on CWMS operation, including acceptance (or rejection of) trade waste flows:

- Water Industry Act 2012 and Regulations 2012
- Work Health and Safety Act 2012 and Regulations 2012
- Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1986
- South Australian Public Health Act 2011 and Regulations (Wastewater) 2013.
- Water Resources Act 1997.
- Natural Resources Management Act 2004 and associated Regulations.
- Local Government Act 1999.
- Environment Protection Act 1993.
- Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy 2003.
- Dangerous Substances Act 1979 and associated Regulations 2008.

4. KEY IMPACTS OF LEGISLATION

4.1 Water Industry Act 2012

The Water Industry Act establishes Council as a Water Entity, giving it substantial powers to run its CWMS efficiently, safely and cost effectively. This includes the power for its officers to enter property and inspect apparatus and pipes connected to the CWMS and to seek information from land owners or occupants of the property.

Section 56 Water Industry Act prohibits anyone from discharging any solid, liquid, gaseous material or any material that may damage or overload the system without the approval of the Water Entity. It sets out the powers to approve or refuse the acceptance of trade wastes into the system and sets out the penalties that can be applied for non-compliance (up to \$25,000).

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4. KEY IMPACTS OF LEGISLATION

CONT'D:

4.2 Public Health (Wastewater) Regulations 2013

The SA Public Health Act gives the Council authority to assess and approve all wastewater plumbing works in its area. Approvals to install plumbing works and to connect to the CWMS are required for all waste water systems including septic tanks, domestic and commercial plumbing, aerobic treatment units and trade waste connections.

5. TRADE WASTE APPROVAL

The Trade Waste Approval contains the terms and conditions under which the applicant may discharge trades wastes into the Council’s CWMS. This includes the rights and obligations both the applicant and the Council in working together to manage the risks of accepting trade waste into the CWMS.

The terms and conditions of each Trade Waste Approval will take into account the capability of the existing CWMS infrastructure to adequately deal with the volumes of flow involved and to treat the trade waste to a standard that permits sustainable and appropriate reuse. This may include clean water directed to the system in such quantities that cannot be accommodate by the existing infrastructure.

Certain trade wastes may not be accepted for reasons such as the risk of damage to the CWMS infrastructure, risk of health impacts on CWMS workers and to the biological processes within the treatment plant, or because the characteristics of the discharge cannot be treated to a level to allow reuses.

The Trade Waste Approval will specify:

- the rate and volume of trade waste that may be discharged to ensure the existing capacities of the CWMS are not exceeded, resulting in potential overflows to the environment,
- the quality parameters of the trade waste that may be discharged,
- a trade waste monitoring program to ensure customers monitor their own performance in meeting the terms of their Trade Waste Approval, including quality sampling and testing where appropriate, or the calibration of instrumentation used to monitor the flow and quality of trade waste,
- the charges which applicant must pay for the acceptance, transfer, treatment and disposal of trade waste.

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6. COMPLIANCE WITH THE TRADE WASTE APPROVAL

Allowing trade waste discharges into the CWMS contrary to the terms and conditions set out in their Trade Waste Approval will have implications for the applicant.

In the event of a serious breach by the customer, the Council has the right to prevent further discharge without notice. Two examples of serious breaches that may result in immediate disconnection are set out below:

- where a landowner or business proprietor changes their operation without consulting the Council and begins letting a strong acidic or caustic substance into the system that impacts the safety of CWMS workers or can affect the operation or integrity of the collection and treatment system,
- where a landowner or business proprietor with a large swimming pool drains the whole pool into the system at a time of day when pumps and collection drains are operating at their peak, potentially causing overflows to the environment.

In the event of a landowner or business proprietor committing a less serious breach of their Trade Waste Approval by discharging a non-compliant waste, Council will initiate a two-step process, aimed at working with the landowner or business proprietor to rectify the cause of the non-complying discharge without immediate penalty. An example might be fatty substances entering the CWMS because the proprietor has failed to regularly monitor and clean their grease arrestor as required.

Compliance Step One: Once a non-compliant situation is detected and the property where the discharge is made can be identified, the proprietor will be contacted in person by a Council officer with delegated powers under the Water Industry Act. The officer will explain the breach, view the pre-treatment system (grease arrestor or other unit) and advise the customer of how to correct the problem. This may involve more regular maintenance and cleaning of the unit, upgrading of the size of the unit or require more investigation. The outcomes of the visit will be followed up in writing, setting out the expectations placed on the landowner or business proprietor.

Provided the proprietor complies with the expectations arising from the visit, there will be no penalties or charges applied.

Compliance Step Two: If no satisfactory action results from Step One, the proprietor will be sent a formal Trade Waste Notice, directing them to do certain things. If the notice is not complied with the Council may take further action resulting in possible penalties, the possible disconnection of the trade waste unit and imposition of costs associated with further testing or enforcement time and costs. Re-connection of the trade waste unit after remedy may involve renegotiation of the terms and conditions of the Trade Waste Approval.

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7. COUNCILS TRADE WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Council’s Trade Waste Management Program targets two categories of business:

1. Industrial and Major Flow premises, and
2. Greasy Waste/Commercial premises.

The form to be used for making application to discharge a trade waste to the CWMS is the same for both categories of business and is available on Council’s website.

8. INDUSTRIAL AND MAJOR FLOW CUSTOMERS

In general, these are premises where goods are manufactured, processed or services provided, excluding those involved in retail food preparation and sales.

The businesses in this category represent a diverse range of businesses including but not limited to:

- car repairers or service stations where waste oils are generated,
- oyster processors or other seafood processing plants,
- metal finishing including spray painters,
- screen printing or other ink or paint processing businesses,
- vehicle washing bays,
- wineries or boutique breweries,
- fitness centres with spas or pools,
- schools with chemistry laboratories / agricultural blocks and/or swimming pools
- any other business that generates waste water other than staff ablution flows.

Applicants in this category will be assessed on a case by case basis. The pre-treatment (if any) for each business will vary according to the quality and quantity of the trade waste they intend to discharge.

Oyster processors are a predominant business in Coffin Bay. Generally, the pre-treatment need only consist of silt and solids screening of wash down facilities. Most oyster washing and sorting facilities connected to the Coffin Bay CWMS also use a large trade waste unit close to the boundary that acts as a further detention chamber for silt, small barnacles and grit.

The actual discharge post-treatment of each individual business may be assessed for quality and volume.

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9. GREASY WASTE/COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS

In general, these are premises which generate trade waste discharges from food preparation such as restaurants, hotels, take away food outlets, cafes, supermarkets where chickens are roasted and similar businesses.

These premises generate trade waste containing food scraps, oil and fat particles that require removal from the trade waste prior to being discharged in the CWMS. Oils, fats and grease removal is important to prevent blockages of the businesses owner’s drain or blockages to the public drains.

When a food business washes its plates, cooking equipment and utensils with hot water, the fats, greases and oils are carried in suspension into the drains and the septic tank. Once the water cools, the fats, oils and greases solidify and, over time, will block the outflow drains. To prevent this, customers are required to install and maintain an appropriately sized grease arrestor.

Council does not approve the types of pre-treat units and relies on the SA Water list of approved pre-treatment units as attached in *Appendix One*.

It is important to understand that grease arrestors require regular maintenance. A busy food business cooking dozens of roast chickens a day will need to clean their grease arrestor more often than a small café preparing sandwiches and takeaway meals on a smaller scale.

Commercial Food Preparation and Service Trade Waste Guidelines are attached in *Appendix Two* which will assist customers in preparing their applications or working with plumbers or designers in preparing for a new connection.

10. AVAILABILITY

Copies of this policy may be purchased for the fees outlined within Council’s current Schedule of Fees & Charges. This policy is available for inspection at the Council offices during ordinary business hours or on Council’s website (www.lowereyrepeninsula.sa.gov.au) at no cost.

