

## TITLE: DRAFT TRADE WASTE DISCHARGE POLICY

REFERENCE NUMBER:	
RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT:	Health & Public Safety
APPLICABLE LEGISLATION:	SA Public Health Act 2011 Water Industry Act 2012 Local Government Act 1999
STRATEGIC PLAN:	Outcome 3 – The Mount Barker District is a leader in growth area water management
RELATED POLICIES:	N/A
SUPPORTING PROCEDURES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Trade Waste Discharge Application Procedure</li><li>• Trade Waste Charging Procedure</li><li>• Trade Waste Non-Compliance Procedure</li></ul>
ENDORSED BY COUNCIL:	
NEXT REVIEW DATE:	

### 1. POLICY STATEMENT

To protect the environment, public health, Council infrastructure and employees from adverse effects of trade waste discharges to Community Wastewater Management Systems (CWMS) through a trade waste management program.

### 2. POLICY OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of this Policy are:

- to administer a trade waste management program to control the types and quantities of non-domestic discharges into Council's CWMS treatment plants in accordance with Local Acceptance Criteria (LAC).
- to apply a charging structure based upon the 'polluter pays' principle applicable to trade waste discharges exceeding standard domestic quality and quantity to:
  - recover the cost of services and treatment associated with the additional loading on the system;
  - recover the cost of damage to the CWMS;
  - encourage waste minimisation and water conservation;
  - support sustainable development.
- to protect public health and the environment by prohibiting or limiting non-degradable, inhibitory or toxic substances that could:

- cause the waste treatment process to fail;
  - pose a risk to maintenance staff or public health;
  - render effluent or sludge's unacceptable for reuse or disposal or;
  - adversely impact the receiving environment.
- to increase understanding and awareness within the business community, of the concepts of environmental management, eco-efficiency and waste minimisation and encourage the adoption of these into business practices.
  - identify and maximise opportunities for waste minimisation, reuse, recycling and water conservation within industry.
  - to increase awareness and facilitate compliance with relevant environmental legislation impacting on businesses.
  - to continually review and develop the trade waste program including LAC, fees and charges and associated policy procedures.

### 3. DEFINITIONS

**ANZECC** refers to the Australian and New Zealand Environment Conservation Council

**Section 56 Authorisation** is an authorisation pursuant to section 56 of the *Water Industry Act 2012* issued by the Council in its capacity as a water industry entity, which authorises the discharge of trade waste from an onsite wastewater system into the CWMS infrastructure.

**Blackwater** is the term used to describe human body wastes discharged into a water carriage system via a water closet and/or urinal.

**CWMS** refers to a Community Wastewater Management System for the collection, treatment and disposal of septic tank effluent.

**Greywater** is the term used to describe the wastewater discharge from waste fixtures such as a bath, basin, dishwashing machine, kitchen sink, laundry trough, washing machine or other sanitary fixture permitted for use in a premise. It excludes human waste such as blackwater (also referred to as sullage wastewater).

**LAC** refers to Local Acceptance Criteria, which set the limits for acceptable physical and chemical characteristics of trade waste. These limits are based on criteria developed by SA Water, ANZECC and SA Health guidelines.

**Regulations** means the *South Australian Public Health (Wastewater) Regulations 2013*

**Sewage** refers to the combination of blackwater and greywater when conveyed through a drain and/or rising main.

**Trade Waste** refers to any liquid or solid waste conveyed as wastewater in a water carriage system from any private, commercial or industrial premises, other than sewage or sullage wastewater. It also includes any wastewater as deemed by Council and in excess of a standard residential dwelling (500 litres per premises per day) e.g. hospital, lodging house, nursing home etc.

**Wastewater** is the liquid that is collected and transported through the Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS). It may include discharges from domestic, commercial and permitted industrial sources or other activities and can include trade wastes.

**Wastewater Works Approval**, means an approval issued by the Council for wastewater works under the Regulations and includes an approval in force prior to the commencement of the Regulations under the *Public and Environmental Health (Waste Control) Regulations 2010*.

**Wastewater works** include—

- the installation of a wastewater system (including a temporary system) or part of a community wastewater management system; or
- the alteration of a wastewater system involving—
  - i. a change to the capacity of the system; or
  - ii. a change in the type of system used for collecting or managing wastewater; or
- the decommissioning of a wastewater system (excluding a temporary system); or
- the connection of a wastewater system to a CWMS or the disconnection of a wastewater system from a CWMS.

#### **4. ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES**

Council's Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) are responsible for assessing applications and issuing approvals under the Regulations and section 56 authorisations under and the *Water Industry Act 2012*. Council's EHOs:

- manage the installation process for trade waste systems and the monitoring of the ongoing operation of trade waste systems;
- provide advice and investigate complaints in regards to trade waste; and
- calculate trade waste charges payable every 6 months.

Council's CWMS department are responsible for investigating and recovering any costs associated with damage to the CWMS resulting from unauthorised discharges into the CWMS.

## 5. POLICY INFORMATION

### Introduction.

Council's wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) were originally designed to receive and treat domestic waste, and as a result are susceptible to adverse affects by the acceptance of unregulated trade wastes from commercial and industrial premises.

The Council is committed to meeting its obligations in relation to the treatment, disposal and reuse of wastewater effluent and sludge consistent with the Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling (2006), the *Environment Protection Act 1993* and the associated licence conditions that attach to the WWTPs.

As suppliers of recycled water, Council is committed to the responsible operation and management of its WWTPs and recycled water system to ensure appropriate water quality is always maintained. Council has a Risk Management Plan in place for the recycled water scheme in accordance with the Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling to manage all risks including trade waste.

Domestic wastewater usually consists of black water and grey water comprising organic material which, after treatment can be sufficiently reduced to an effluent of a quality suitable for discharge into a CWMS.

Trade waste may be produced in much larger volumes and be of an organic strength many times that of domestic waste which can overload the treatment facility. Trade waste is also likely to contain non-organic substances that are more difficult to treat via the treatment system such as hydrocarbons, solvents and heavy metals. They can also contain substances that can inhibit or adversely affect the treatment system such as dissolved salts. Substances such as grease, oils, chemicals and prohibited substances can cause damage to Council's CWMS infrastructure and can pose a risk to maintenance staff or personnel. Some substances cannot be treated at all and if discharged, will pass through to the receiving environment and affect the quality of the recycled water. To protect the CWMS treatment system, trade wastes are accepted based on criteria determined by the capabilities of the treatment plant and the ANZECC National Guidelines for acceptance of trade waste. Non-biodegradable or toxic substances are limited or prohibited.

Every property that is serviced by the Council's CWMS is liable to pay a service charge which is declared annually in conjunction with Council rates pursuant to Chapter 10 of the *Local Government Act 1999*. The revenue obtained via the service charge is used for the operation, maintenance and repairs of CWMS infrastructure. The CWMS service charge is based upon the level of usage and is linked to the LAC. Charges are reviewed annually based on budgeted CWMS operation & maintenance costs.

The Council is responsible for assessing and approving applications for onsite wastewater systems within its area in accordance with the Regulations. Onsite wastewater systems that discharge trade waste into Council's CWMS require separate authorisation under s56 of the *Water Industry Act 2012*.

### **Application**

This policy applies to all premises connected to the District Council of Mount Barker's CWMS via an onsite wastewater system. Premises not connected to CWMS, are subject to compliance with legislation such as the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011*, and *Environment Protection Act 1993* and associated Regulations and Policies.

The trade waste discharge policy essentially comprises 5 major components that aid in addressing the main principles of the trade waste policy:

#### **1) Education & Awareness:**

A large component of the trade waste program involves educating the business community on trade waste issues and raising awareness of related environmental management issues such as waste minimisation, water conservation and cleaner production. This is ongoing and continues to develop as new technologies emerge and legislative requirements change.

#### **2) Necessary Approvals:**

A person must not install or connect an onsite wastewater system to the Council's CWMS without having obtained a wastewater works approval.

A condition of all wastewater works approvals for wastewater systems connected to the Council's CWMS that requires the discharge of any trade waste from that wastewater system to be subject to a section 56 authorisation.

This means that persons who operate a trade waste wastewater system must have:

- wastewater works approval under the Regulations; and
- a section 56 authorisation under the *Water Industry Act 2012*.

Once issued, a wastewater works approvals for an onsite wastewater system continue in force until such time as the onsite wastewater system is decommissioned (if any), and are subject to conditions imposed by the Council, which may be varied from time to time.

A section 56 authorisation operates subject to the conditions imposed by the Council.

## **Application Fees**

Applications for a wastewater works approval and section 56 authorisation may be lodged with the Council. Fees apply.

The fee for an application for wastewater works approval is prescribed by Schedule 1 of the Regulations.

The application fee for a section 56 authorisation is as may be adopted by the Council from time to time in accordance with section 188(e) of the *Local Government Act 1999*. The fee (if any) is contained in the Council's schedule of fees and charges available at: [www.dcmtbarker.sa.gov.au](http://www.dcmtbarker.sa.gov.au)

### **3) Inspections:**

Premises issued with a wastewater works approval and section 56 Authorisation will receive scheduled inspections to assess the operation and maintenance of the trade waste system against the approval and authorisation conditions. The renewal of section 56 authorisations that operate for a specified period is contingent upon the council being satisfied (following an inspection of the relevant wastewater system) that all conditions attaching to the section 56 authorisation have been complied with.

### **4) Enforcement and Non Compliance:**

Non-compliance with a wastewater works approval constitutes an offence under the Regulations. The Council may issue an expiation notice for a breach of a condition of a wastewater approval if the condition that has been breached is a prescribed expiable condition under regulation 25(2)(a) of the Regulations.

Unauthorised discharge of trade waste into the Council's CWMS is an offence under the *Water Industry Act 2012* in respect of which an expiation fee of \$750 and maximum penalty of \$25,000

The Council considers that enforcing breaches of a wastewater works approval and/or section 56 authorisation is necessary to preserve the integrity of the Council's CWMS infrastructure, which is in the interests of public health. Enforcement action will be taken in accordance with the Council's Enforcement Policy and the Trade Waste Non-Compliance Procedure.

### **5) Polluter Pays Charges:**

The Council's service charge for CWMS is based upon the 'polluter pays' principle. This means that the principal ratepayer of a property that discharges qualities and quantities of waste above that of a standard domestic dwelling is liable to pay a greater amount than the principal ratepayer of a property that discharges domestic waste. . Reduction of the amount payable by way of a service charge may be possible where a principal ratepayer employs wastewater minimisation and water conservation practices.

## **Associated Trade Waste Procedures**

In accordance with the provisions set out in the Local Government Act 1999, SA Public Health Act 2011, Water Industry Act 2013 and associated Regulations, the following procedures apply in relation to the discharge of trade wastes into Council's CWMS:

- Trade Waste Discharge Application Procedure
- Trade Waste Charging Procedure
- Trade Waste Non-Compliance Procedure

## **6. REVIEW**

This Policy will be reviewed every four (4) years or earlier in the event of changes to legislation or related Policies and Procedures or if deemed necessary by the Health & Public Safety Department.

## **7. ACCESS TO THE POLICY**

The Policy is available for public inspection at the Customer Service Centre, at the Local Government Centre, 6 Dutton Road, Mount Barker, South Australia and on the Council's website [www.dcmtbarker.sa.gov.au](http://www.dcmtbarker.sa.gov.au).

## **8. FURTHER INFORMATION**

For further information on this Policy, please contact:

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