

# MANAGING TRADE WASTE

Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008  
Trade Waste Management Plan 2019

Uncontrolled discharge of trade waste into the sewerage system can cause serious problems to the sewerage infrastructure, environment and health and safety of workers.

As a result, the Queensland state government has put in place legislation enabling local councils such as Townsville City Council to protect employees, contractors and the public's health and safety, as well as its infrastructure and the environment. Legislation such as the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* and the *Local Government Act 2009* allows council to monitor and control trade waste being discharged to sewer and prosecute illegal discharges as they are considered an offence under these acts.

## PROBLEMS CAUSED BY TRADE WASTE

### Grease and oil causes problems such as:

- » the formation of deposits of greasy solids along the water line of sewers, thereby reducing the sewer's capacity; these deposits can lead to the breakaway of accumulated grease and fats at times of high or very low flow
- » blockages and failure of the pumps when it accumulates in wet wells and pumping stations, when mixed with other materials present in sewage
- » restrictions and blockages when it deposits in bends of the sewer
- » overflows in the drains of commercial and industrial properties
- » blockages and expensive repairs when it accumulates on screens at treatment facilities
- » a reduction in the effectiveness of sewage treatment and the quality of effluent being discharged into the environment.

### High organic matter may:

- » accelerate the generation of sulphides in sewer mains and consequently odours and corrosion problems
- » overload treatment units at the sewage treatment works
- » cause non-compliance with the sewage treatment plant's licence conditions.

### Solids and sludges cause problems such as:

- » blockages and sewage overflows in the drains of commercial and industrial properties
- » formation of deposits in the sewer, reducing its capacity and leading to overflow conditions
- » accumulation in wet wells and pumping stations, resulting in increased maintenance
- » deterioration of mechanical equipment such as pumps and valves by abrasion
- » the overload of treatment units at the sewage treatment plant.

### Low or high pH may:

- » cause injury to people working in and around the sewerage system
- » cause corrosion of the sewer structure
- » upset the biological treatment processes at the sewage treatment works
- » cause the release of toxic gas - hydrogen sulphide in the case of low pH, and ammonia in the case of high pH.

## MORE INFORMATION

For more information, contact council's Assets and Hydraulics Unit.

Phone 13 48 10

Email [enquiries@townsville.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@townsville.qld.gov.au)

Website [townsville.qld.gov.au](http://townsville.qld.gov.au)