Discharge of Trade Waste to Council's Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS) Policy

Council Policy

Renmark Paringa Council

Responsible Officer	Director of Infrastructure and Environmental Services
Relevant Legislation	
Adopted	June 2021
Reviewed	March 2026
Next Review	September 2029

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Set out how Renmark Paringa Council will regulate trade waste discharges into the CWMS network.
- Provide information to business and industry on trade waste requirements and restrictions to protect Council's CWMS infrastructure and operations
- Ensure that Renmark Paringa Council understands the impacts and costs associated with trade waste disposal into the CWMS network
- Facilitate the methods required to effectively manage trade waste disposal into the CWMS network
- Create an awareness of the implications and costs of trade waste entering the CWMS network

Introduction

Historically trade waste producing properties have not been charged formally for the disposal of trade waste, this is accounted for by applying the property unit model as a factor for annual service charges. This charge accounts for the average inflow from non-residential properties from the number of people (FTE) at each premise.

This model does not consider what type of industry/operation the premise is being used for and therefore what category of trade waste is being disposed of into the CWMS system.

Liquid trade waste exerts a much greater demand on CWMS systems, if uncontrolled, can pose serious problems to public health, worker safety, Councils CWMS networks and WWTPs and the environment.

Impacts of trade waste include

- Grease, oil, solvents and solid materials can cause pipe chokes, pump blockages and discharge of effluent to the environment
- Increased maintenance costs involved in cleaning/ jetting of pipes, replacement of pumps and decreased life of membrane and filtration devices.
- Increased odour and corrosion issues for pipes, pump stations and WWTPs

Liquid trade waste discharged into the CWMS system from industrial, commercial or other non-residential customers can impose significant costs on septic transport and treatment facilities. To recover these costs and to lessen the existing requirement for cross-subsidies from residential customers, appropriate fees and charges need to be levied for liquid trade waste

Objective

- Ensure the effective management and regulation of trade waste discharged to Council's effluent system
- Provide a mechanism to categorise and apply accompanying fees for the trade waste disposal into the CWMS system
- Ensure the fee structure for residential and commercial premises is appropriate
- Prevent damage to Council's Community Wastewater System (CWMS) infrastructure and wastewater disposal facility
- Assist Council meet its statutory obligations for management of the wastewater disposal facility
- Maintain public and environmental health outcomes
- Encourage waste minimisation and cleaner production
- Protect the health and safety of Council employees

Policy

Under the provisions of the Water Industry Act 2012 and ESCOSA, the Renmark Paringa Council is a licenced water retailer and provides wastewater services to residential and non-residential customers.

This trade waste policy applies to the non-residential customers.

ESCOSA requires water retailers to comply with the National Water Initiative Pricing Principles. The application of a trade waste charging structure reflective of the cost of service delivery to these customers ensures compliance with this regulatory obligation.

Trade waste is defined as any liquid or solid waste discharged from any commercial, industrial, manufacturing or other similar premises that is not domestic wastewater.

In most cases trade waste requires some form of treatment prior to being discharged to Council's CWMS. Treatment includes the removal of harmful chemicals, fats and grease, or the correction of wastewater characteristics, such as pH and temperature. Examples of pre-treatment devices include grease arrestors, silt traps, cooling pits, neutralising tanks and oil water separators. The type of pre-treatment device is determined by the trade waste requiring treatment prior to discharge.

It is an offence to discharge any solid, liquid or gaseous material, or any other item or thing that is likely to damage the infrastructure without proper authority from Council. Penalties may apply for failure to comply with this requirement under the Water Industry Act 2012.

Restricted substances prohibited to be discharged to Council's CWMS without pre-treatment include:

- Acid (low pH)
- Alkai (high pH)
- Biodegradable material (BOD) in large quantity
- Cyanide
- Fats, oils and grease
- Heavy metals e.g. cadmium, zinc and lead
- Pesticides and herbicides
- Rainwater or stormwater
- Sulphides
- Suspended solids
- Temperature
- Volatile substances

Only trade waste which complies with SA Water acceptable standards for restricted substances can be discharged into Council's CWMS. A full list of the acceptable standards for restricted substances can be found here:

https://www.sawater.com.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/6722/Restricted-Wastewater-Acceptance-Standards.pdf

The installation of pre-treatment devices and associated pipework requires wastewater approval from Council's Environmental Health Officer.

It is the responsibility of the business operator and owner to regularly pump out pre-treatment devices, such as grease arrestors to ensure restricted substances do not enter Council's CWMS.

Application of the Policy

The Renmark Paringa Council may undertake the following to manage the discharge of trade waste to the CWMS network:

- Take steps to understand Council and the community's desire for trade waste disposers to be charged accordingly to manage the extra cost of maintenance that trade waste creates.
- Create a trade waste register of all non-residential properties that discharge into the network
- Formulate a 'RPC acceptance criteria' for trade waste that will assist in categorising what and amounts of trade waste being disposed into the system.
- Complete a trade waste assessment to determine what category of waste is being produced and entering the system
- Develop a 'trade waste application' form for all non-residential properties
- Advocate for the use of a 'Waste ID badge' type system for monitoring and notifying Council of cleaning of pretreatment devices to ensure that agreed maintenance programs are being adhered to.
- Promote pre-treatment devices and pro-active maintenance techniques as an avenue for fee reduction

Document Control

Version #	Approval Date	Approved by	Amendment
1.0	1 June 2021	Policy Review Committee	New Policy
2.0	March 2026	Policy Review Committee	Updates to modern practices and aspirational management practices to support and protect Council's infrastructure