



Media Release

Managing Liquid Trade Waste

Caring for the environment is an important part of local government day to day activities. Managing environmental issues relating to waste management, including liquid wastes, involves a partnership with Council and the NSW Office of Water.

Local government is required to implement state government legislation together with best practice guidelines provided by the NSW Office of Water for waste management. As such, Council aims to ensure all businesses that produce liquid waste, such as food businesses, comply with the legislation.

Over recent months, all businesses that discharge liquid trade waste have been inspected as part of the Liquid Trade Waste Policy. Liquid trade waste is basically all discharge into the Council's sewerage system other than normal domestic sewage. This includes liquid waste from commercial kitchens, butchers, hairdressers and beauticians. Council operates sewerage systems in Baradine, Coolah, Coonabarabran and Dunedoo.

Commercial property owners and businesses across the shire were contacted by Council prior to an accredited inspector visiting the premises. Premises inspected included cafes, restaurants, bakeries, hotels and motels, service stations, industrial businesses, supermarkets, schools and hospitals.

During the inspection, recommendations were provided to the business and property owners of what was required to meet the NSW government legislation. Actions recommended primarily involved pre-treatment facilities such as installation of sink screens or grease traps to remove contaminants before discharging the waste into the sewerage system.

Ninety-six premises in the towns of Coonabarabran, Coolah, Dunedoo and Baradine were inspected, with only 24% of premises compliant with the NSW government legislation. Council is continuing to liaise with the commercial property owners and businesses to assist them meeting the legislative requirements for discharge of liquid trade waste into town sewerage systems.

As part of the legislation, Council needs to introduce fees and charges for liquid trade waste. However, in an effort to assist premises and businesses with the additional costs associated in complying with the legislation, the fees will not be implemented until July 2015. Council staff continue to work towards assisting affected premises, and are investigating a loan system for business owners to access to assist with the additional cost of installing pre-treatment facilities, which may be from \$3,000 to \$9,000.

Commercial properties identified as producing liquid trade waste will also be required to register for approval to discharge by completing an application form.

Working in partnership with commercial businesses and NSW Office of Water, Warrumbungle Shire Council aims to oversee liquid trade waste discharge to town sewerage systems as part of best practice environmental management.

Photo caption: Sewerage Treatment Plants often become a haven for birdlife. Managing these facilities with best practice guidelines safeguards the environment.

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