

TasWater is proposing some changes to the way commercial and industrial customers are charged for trade waste

## Trade waste charges reflect the additional costs trade waste imposes on the sewerage network

Trade waste is the liquid waste generated by any industry, business, trade or manufacturing process. TasWater's sewerage network and treatment plants are designed to treat domestic waste.

TasWater incurs additional costs managing, transporting and treating trade waste. TasWater imposes trade waste charges on customers who discharge trade waste into the sewerage network.

## Trade waste customer categories

TasWater categorises trade waste customers based on the impact that trade waste discharged by the customer has on the sewerage network. There are currently four trade waste customer categories (1 to 4).

Category 1 and 2 customers are those assessed as having low grade or low to medium volumes of trade waste. The Economic Regulator sets TasWater's trade waste prices for Category 1 and 2 customers.

Category 3 and 4 customers discharge higher volumes of trade waste and/or waste that has a greater impact on the sewerage network. Category 3 and 4 trade waste customers must negotiate a price and enter into a contract with TasWater.

## TasWater's trade waste proposals

TasWater proposes making some changes to trade waste charging, including introducing a new trade waste customer category, Category 0. Customers in this category would be currently Category 1 customers, such as hairdressers, beauty salons and coffee shops, where approved pre-treatment equipment has been installed and their discharges into the sewerage system are similar to residential homes. These customers would not pay trade waste charges (ie these customers would pay sewerage charges only).

TasWater is also proposing to expand the range of Category 2 customers to whom the site constraint fee would be applied. This fee is currently applied to customers unable to install grease traps due to heritage listing or site constraints that make the cost of installation unreasonably prohibitive. The purpose of the fee is to offset the cost to TasWater of transporting and treating otherwise non-compliant trade waste and ensure customers who have already installed grease traps are not disadvantaged.

TasWater proposes expanding the application of this fee to more food businesses that have not installed grease traps if the installation costs are significantly more expensive than for other comparable properties. TasWater also proposes renaming the fee as a catchment management fee.

### What has not changed?

TasWater proposes retaining fixed annual charges for trade waste. An alternative approach, commonly applied in Australia, is for charges to vary from year to year based on the estimated volume of discharge (which could vary, for example, depending on the type and level of activity at the premises).

TasWater also proposes retaining a single trade waste charge for all Category 1 customers and retaining three sub-categories of Category 2 customers (2A, 2B and 2C), each with different charges.

### Prices and fees

TasWater proposes increasing trade waste prices and fees, including non-compliance fees, by 3.5% each year up to 2025-26.

Read [TasWater's price and service plan submission \(PDF↓\)](#) to find out more.

### Have your say

The Regulator intends on releasing its Draft Report for public consultation in early February 2022. Submissions will be due by mid-March 2022.

The Regulator will release its Final Report and make its determination in early May 2022.

To follow the progress of the Regulator's investigations, you can subscribe to the Regulator's mailing list by emailing [office@economicregulator.tas.gov.au](mailto:office@economicregulator.tas.gov.au).