

Trade waste charges for non-residential customers

Commercial and industrial processes result in the discharge of liquid waste into the sewerage network that differs from residential waste. This trade waste increases the load on the network, and TasWater imposes charges to recover the additional costs it incurs treating trade waste.

Draft trade waste categories

Category	Description
Commercial (regulated prices):	
0	Trade waste of very low volume or strength. Equivalent to, or less than, that of domestic sewage.
1	Low volume and low impact trade waste which: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- poses minimal risk to the sewerage infrastructure, and- can be managed through simple pre-treatment devices, such as screens or tanks with minimal maintenance requirements.
2	Trade waste that can be managed through the installation of pre-treatment devices, such as grease arrestors and oil water separators to make it acceptable for discharge. Split into subcategories of 2A, 2B and 2C.
Industrial (unregulated prices):	
3 & 4	Trade waste that poses a medium or high risk to the operation of the sewerage infrastructure.

Regulated and non-regulated prices

Trade waste services for commercial customers in Categories 0-2C are regulated, meaning the Economic Regulator sets and approves their standard fees. For industrial customers in Categories 3 and 4, prices are not regulated and are instead negotiated directly with TasWater.

The Economic Regulator intends to maintain the current approach to trade waste charging

TasWater has proposed a new fixed and variable charging approach for trade waste services, with new charging bands. However, the Economic Regulator considers that further work is required (such as consultation with customers) before the proposal can be supported. On this basis, the Economic Regulator intends to maintain the existing risk-based pricing method for regulated trade waste services for 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2030.

Draft trade waste charges

For trade waste categories 1, 2A, 2B and 2C, TasWater charges an **annual fee**. Category 0 customers are not charged for trade waste.

An **application fee** applies for the assessment of a trade waste application by TasWater.

A **catchment management fee** applies to customers that are unable to comply with their trade waste requirements due to heritage or other site constraints at their properties. This fee is in addition to the annual fee.

A **macerator fee** applies for aged-care and healthcare facilities that use a macerator device before discharging waste to the sewerage system.

The Economic Regulator does not intend to approve trade waste non-compliance charges

TasWater currently charges customers who do not install or maintain required pre-treatment. However, it has not provided any forecast of how often these non-compliance charges would apply in the next regulatory period. Because of this lack of evidence, the Economic Regulator does not intend to approve non-compliance charges for the fifth regulatory period, but may reconsider, if TasWater provides sufficient justification before the Final Report.

Draft annual fees

Trade waste Category	Current 2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
0	-	<i>No charges apply</i>			
1	\$676.36	\$705.73	\$736.37	\$768.33	\$801.69
2A	\$1 108.73	\$1 156.86	\$1 207.09	\$1 259.49	\$1 314.17
2B	\$1 555.82	\$1 623.37	\$1 693.84	\$1 767.38	\$1 844.11
2C	\$2 333.38	\$2 434.68	\$2 540.38	\$2 650.66	\$2 765.74

Draft application fee

Current 2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
\$175.06	\$182.67	\$190.60	\$198.87	\$207.50

Draft catchment management fees

	Current 2025-26	2026-27	Draft 2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
up to 499 kL per annum	\$1 411.40	\$1 472.67	\$1 536.61	\$1 603.32	\$1 672.93
500 to 1 500 kL per annum	\$2 367.11	\$2 469.88	\$2 577.10	\$2 688.99	\$2 805.73

Draft macerator fee (per bedpan macerator)

2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
\$62.78	\$65.51	\$68.35	\$71.32	\$74.41

Trade waste review process

The Economic Regulator's 2024 Inquiry into Trade Waste Charging required TasWater to formalise and publish a trade waste review process. TasWater has not yet done this, with no review process submitted or published. As a result, the Economic Regulator will require TasWater to implement and provide this review process as directed in the Inquiry's Final Report.

Trade waste discount for sewerage charges

The Economic Regulator intends to accept TasWater's proposal to introduce of a fixed and variable charging approach for sewerage services. To prevent double charging for trade waste customers, where trade volume is accounted for in both sewerage and trade waste charges, the Economic Regulator intends to apply a **40-percentage point discount** to the sewerage discharge volume for all customers who pay trade waste charges. This will be applied as an interim measure until 30 June 2030, while TasWater reconciles its sewerage and trade waste charging methodologies.

For more information on sewerage charges, please refer to the factsheet: *Water and sewerage charging for a non-residential customer*.

Sewerage discharge factors (SDF) applied to trade waste customers who pay trade waste charges.

Non-residential Group category (excluding vacant sites)	Sewerage discharge factor (SDF)	Discount for trade waste customers	SDF applied to trade waste customers
Accommodation	0.90	0.40	0.50
Aged Care	0.90	0.40	0.50
Business	0.90	0.40	0.50
Child Care Centres	0.80	0.40	0.40
Commercial - beverage	0.83	0.40	0.43
Commercial - fabrication and manufacturing	0.90	0.40	0.50
Community - indoor	0.90	0.40	0.50
Community - outdoor	0.70	0.40	0.30
Educational	0.80	0.40	0.40
Hospitality	0.90	0.40	0.50
Medical	0.90	0.40	0.50
Retail – indoor	0.90	0.40	0.50
Retail – outdoor	0.50	0.40	0.10
Services	0.90	0.40	0.50
Sporting Clubs	0.70	0.40	0.30
Undefined	0.90	0.40	0.50
Unknown	0.90	0.40	0.50

Have your say

The Economic Regulator is inviting comments and feedback on its draft decisions and proposed price determination.

Your submission will help inform the final report. Unless you request confidentiality, submissions will be made public (personal details such as address, phone number and email will be removed).

Next steps

After considering all submissions and feedback, the Economic Regulator finalises and publishes the investigation final report and final price determination. This sets the maximum allowable prices for TasWater's regulated services for the next regulatory period.

To receive updates on the progress of the investigation, you can subscribe to the Regulator's mailing list by emailing office@economicregulator.tas.gov.au.

How to submit

You can send your submission via:

Email: office@economicregulator.tas.gov.au

Mail: Office of the Tasmanian Economic Regulator
GPO Box 770
Hobart TAS 7001

If you would like to keep any part of your submission confidential, please make this clear and attach the confidential content separately.

Questions? - Contact us by email or call (03) 6145 5899

Submissions close 13 March 2026
