

Liquid Trade Waste Approvals

Under section 68 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, anyone wishing to discharge liquid trade waste to the sewerage system must obtain an approval to do so from the authority that looks after the system. In the MidCoast Council area, MidCoast Water Services, a division of MidCoast Council, is the relevant authority operating the sewerage systems. Discharging liquid trade waste without an approval is an offence under section 626 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Sewerage systems are designed to cater for waste from domestic sources. This type of waste is of predictable strength and quality and can be adequately treated through the usual biological processes. MidCoast Water Services may accept liquid trade waste into its sewerage system, as a service to business and industry. Liquid trade wastes may exert much greater demands on sewerage systems than domestic sewage and, if uncontrolled, can pose serious problems to public health, worker safety, the community's sewerage system and the environment (**Figure 1**). Impacts of poor liquid trade waste management include:

- Grease, oil and solid material, if not removed on-site, can cause blockages in the sewerage system and result in overflows of untreated sewage to the environment.
- Strong waste may cause odour problems and corrosion of sewer mains, pumping stations and sewage treatment facilities.
- Unknown chemicals may interfere with the biological processes used for sewage treatment.
- Strong waste, unknown chemicals and high temperature liquids discharged to the system can injure workers involved in sewer maintenance.
- Treatment of liquid trade waste places additional loading on sewerage treatment facilities



Figure 1. Sewer main, choked with fats (viewed down a manhole) caused by a food business operating with no grease arrestor.

A copy of MidCoast Water Services' 'Policy for the discharge of liquid trade waste to MidCoast Water's Sewerage System' and application form can be found on the MidCoast Water Services' website www.midcoastwater.com.au. For further information, or to apply for a Liquid Trade Waste Approval, contact MidCoast Water Services' Environmental Scientist Quality and Source, Phone 1300 133 455.