

## 27. EFFLUENT IMPROVEMENT PLAN

### Preface

Liquid waste generated by industry, small business and commercial enterprises is referred to as trade waste. The Water Supply (Safety & Reliability) Act 2008 prohibits the unauthorised discharge of wastes, other than domestic sewage, into the sewerage system.

1. The definition of trade waste is;
  - *The waterborne waste from business, trade or manufacturing property, other than:*
    - *Waste that is a prohibited substance; or*
    - *Human waste; or*
    - *Stormwater.*
2. The definition of Domestic waste is;
  - *Faecal matter and urine of human origin and liquid household wastes from water closet pans, sinks, baths, basins and similar fixtures designed for use in private dwellings*

### What is an Effluent Improvement Plan?

An Effluent Improvement Plan is a document that must be submitted by a Category 3 discharger who is not meeting the acceptance limits for discharge waste quality set down in WRC trade waste approval conditions and/or agreement.

The document sets out how a discharger will meet the acceptance limits for the discharge of liquid trade waste to the sewerage system within a given timeframe.


### Effluent Improvement Plan - information requirements

In instances where the liquid trade waste discharging from industrial and commercial premises to the sewerage system does not meet WRC acceptance limits, improvements to the quality of liquid trade waste will be required. Applicants will need to submit an Effluent Improvement Plan setting out how the acceptance standards and/or other approval conditions will be met.

### Information the applicant needs to supply

Effluent Improvement Plan must include the following:

- A series of steps, which detail the methods, proposed to improve the quality/quantity of the liquid trade waste discharge
- Any incremental improvements expected in the quality/quantity of the liquid trade waste discharge

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- The outcomes expected with respect to time frames and liquid trade waste quality/quantity
  - Reporting milestones for each step in the Effluent Improvement Plan
  - A Management Plan outlining the nature (solid or liquid, containing chemical, food or metal residues) and mass (tonnes per annum) of waste substances expected to be produced as a consequence of the Effluent Improvement Plan and the method/s proposed for the reuse, recycling, or disposal of these substances
  - The Effluent Improvement Plan should not extend past a six (6) month time frame, with the following as an example of major steps:
    - one (1) month dedicated to a study and investigation of options
    - one (1) month dedicated to obtaining approvals from WRC Trade Waste Section.
    - two (2) months for installation
    - two (2) months dedicated to training of staff and commissioning.