

# Water Contamination Factsheet

The investigation of complaints relating to water emissions from residential and commercial properties has been devolved to Local Government as from January 2009. It is important to always look after our environment and prevent contamination of any prescribed water contaminant from entering our rivers systems and dams.

## Be a good neighbour

If you see someone depositing contaminants in the waterways, take time to talk to them. It is important to develop an environmental conscience and not just deposit any items into the environment. In many cases just talking to people can raise their level of awareness to the benefit of everyone

## The Law

The *Environmental Protection Act 1994* introduced by the State Government include offences relating to water contaminants. Council is legally required to enforce these offences when prescribed water contaminants are deposited illegally into waters. If a person is found contravening *the Act*, Council may issue the person with an on-the-spot fine.

## Consider noise impact on nearby residential properties

Organisers of events should take the time to talk to nearby residents. Find out what concerns they may have and ask them for suggestions about solving any problems. Discuss noise concerns with neighbours in the planning stages of the event. In many cases an agreement can be reached that satisfies the needs of everyone.

## Prescribed Water Contaminants (refer *Section 77* and *Schedule 9 (Prescribed water contaminants)* in the *EP Regulations 2008*)

### List of prescribed water contaminants

1. A chemical, or chemical waste containing a chemical  
*Examples—*
  - biocide, including herbicide, fungicide and pesticide
  - chemical that causes biochemical or chemical oxygen demand
  - chemical toxicant for which guidelines are prescribed in the document ‘Australian and New Zealand guidelines for fresh and marine water quality’
  - degreasing agent
2. A gas other than oxygen
3. A liquid containing suspended or dissolved solids
4. A liquid that has a temperature different by more than 2°C from ambient water temperature
5. Animal matter, including dead animals, animal remains and animal excreta, and water used to clean animals, animal enclosures or vehicles used for transporting animals
6. Ashes, clay, gravel, sediment, stones and similar organic or inorganic matter
7. A substance that has a pH outside the range 6.5 to 8.5
8. Building and construction materials, including bitumen, brick, cement, concrete and plaster

9. Building, construction and demolition waste, including bitumen, brick, concrete cuttings, plaster and waste water generated by building, construction or demolition
10. Clinical waste
11. Glass, metal parts, paper, piping, plastic and scrap metal
12. Industrial waste
13. Oil, including, for example, petroleum or vegetable based oil
14. Paint, paint scrapings or residues, paint sludge, water used for diluting paint or washing painting utensils, and waste from paint stripping
15. Plant matter, including, for example, bark, lawn clippings, leaves, mulch, pruning waste, sawdust, shavings, woodchip and other waste from forest products
16. Putrescible waste, including, for example, food scraps
17. Sewage and sewage residues, whether treated or untreated, and any other matter containing faecal coliforms or faecal streptococci, including, for example, waste water pumped out from a septic tank
18. Vehicles and components of vehicles, including, for example, batteries and tyres
19. Waste and waste water, generated from indoor cleaning, including, for example, waste from carpet or upholstery cleaning and steam cleaning
20. Waste and waste water, generated from outdoor cleaning, including, for example, waste generated from high pressure water blasting of commercial or industrial premises, fuel dispensing areas, plant or equipment, roofs, streets, vehicles and wharves
21. Waste generated from repairing or servicing motor vehicles, including, for example, engine coolant, grease, lubricants and oil
22. Waste water from commercial or industrial activities  
*Examples of commercial or industrial activities—* building works, concrete cutting, site dewatering
23. Waste water, including backwash from swimming pools, condensate from compressors, untreated ballast water, water from air-conditioning or cooling systems, water from testing fire sprinklers and waste water from grease traps

**For further information please contact:**

**Environmental Health Services at Mount Isa City Council on 4747 3200**