

media release



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From: Rockhampton City Council
Corporate Communications Officer

Following years of negotiation with Rockhampton City Council, local dairy manufacturer Pauls Parmalat have implemented a state-first, innovative waste treatment process in a bid to reduce the amount of effluent entering the city's sewers.

Environmental Services Committee Chair Cr Neil Fisher said Council's Trade Waste Officer John Tilley had been working very closely with Pauls management over the past five years to come up with a way to reduce the amount of trade waste the company was producing following concerns about the impact it was having on the system.

"The wastewater treatment process is largely a biological process, with major costs keeping the water oxygenated and removing suspended solids," Cr Fisher said.

"Typically, the waste produced by dairy manufacturers has a considerable impact on the system due to its high biological oxygen demand (BOD) and the amount of suspended solids (TSS), however with this new technology, Pauls have been able to reduce these components by around 70%."

The new technology effectively means that there is less demand being placed on the system, enabling it to operate more efficiently and effectively.

The innovative system, designed and manufactured by an Australian company and now being exported overseas, was first identified by Mr Tilley at a Sydney trade waste show some years ago.

Mr Tilley, having worked closely with Pauls management over a number of years offering them assistance and advice in managing their trade waste, recognised the potential of this new technology, and contacted the local manager upon returning to Rockhampton, Cr Fisher said.

Subsequent discussions, tests and trialling continued for nearly two years, with the new system being installed last year.

Cr Fisher said Pauls' initiative would make a significant impact on the city's waste treatment costs.

"The management and staff of Pauls are to be congratulated for their efforts not only in reducing the amount of trade waste they produce, but for their initiative in being the first dairy manufacturing plant in Queensland to adopt this new technology," Cr Fisher said.

"I would also like to congratulate John Tilley for his efforts in assisting Pauls to find a viable solution to what was likely to become a costly problem for the city," Cr Fisher said.

Production and Distribution Manager Tony Wickham said as a large local employer and user of council infrastructure, Pauls / Parmalat realised that it would need to reduce the level of waste that was being discharged into the council sewerage system. The project was completed in two stages, one being the installation of a large effluent storage tank, and then the purchase and installation of an "ICEP" dissolved air flotation system from Acqua international in Victoria. The total capital cost of the system will be in excess of \$310,000.00 with approximate running costs of \$90,000.00 to \$120,000.00 per annum expected. Pre treatment of our waste that is discarded to the sewerage system will inturn reduce our trade waste paid quarterly to the city council. Overall it will be a win/win situation for all parties.

Currently Council monitors around 400 businesses throughout the city, conducting periodic inspections to ensure levels of trade waste remain within Council's Sewer Admission Limits. Businesses who fail to comply with these limits face penalty fines and possible disconnection from the sewerage system.

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