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1) The trade waste charge proposed by the Commission is very low. Our experience in dealing with treatment of industrial waste (or sewage) indicates costs of the order of $ 1 - $ 2 / kL dependent on the extent of treatment required.
2) There seems to be some misconception over volume of wastewater generated. In the water industry, there are 2 ways of looking at flow – dry weather flow, which is common during spring to autumn; then there is wet weather flow during periods of rainfall (short limited periods generally over winter). During wet weather periods, flow to the metropolitan sewage treatment plants can be up to 3 x average dry weather flow due to infiltration – but this is for very limited periods (if rain continues for 2 -3 days), the peak period can last this long, and then reverts to dry weather flow soon after. What this means is that the overall annual wastewater generated is around 10 – 15 % higher than the average dry weather flow. There is a statement in the report, which talks about 3 times flow inferring this is on average, but that is not correct.
3) There are costs associated with operating and maintaining the sewerage system – these relate to contaminant concentration which if excessive causes odour (necessitating control) and / or corrosion of the sewer. Consequently costs of contaminant loading are appropriate to consider, in developing O&M costs for the sewers
4) In terms of smart metering and detection of leaks – while there is a capital cost expenditure, this really is an investment for the future. In implementation of this technology, substantial benefits from leak prevention have been found in many cases which results in additional savings in treatment and transfer costs.