

CONSULTANT CONSIDERATION GUIDE

Water and Waste (Domestic and Trade)

As part of your approvals journey several consultants may be required to provide supporting documents for your proposed development. Below is a list of common consultants engaged for a beverage business in relation to water, domestic wastewater and trade waste. Additional consultants may be required depending on the scope of the proposed business (eg. complexity, scale, location).

This list is provided as a guide only to help you find out early in the process as their engagement will impact your financial planning and may influence the choices you make.

PHASE 1: CONSIDER AND PLAN

- Business consultant: helps to clarify your thinking, set direction and test the feasibility of your proposed business for now and the long term. There are consultants available that provide this service or you can contact the SBDC for tools, guides and support.

Who needs this information: local and state government departments may require clarity on your business's long-term vision and goals to provide support and advice prior to you selecting a site and applying for relevant approvals. It is important that you not only consider start up but your anticipated peak production volumes.

PHASE 2: PRE APPLICATION

- Planning consultant: can help provide advice on land use compatibility, local government planning scheme compliance, other local issues, and undertake development application approvals.

Who needs this information: local and state government as part of any pre-application advice.



TOP TIP

Consider bringing your consultant into any scoping meetings with government regulatory agencies to have direct access to information provided and ask clarifying questions.

PHASE 3: PREPARE AND APPLY

- Environmental consultant: depending on the location, scale and development type, you may require flora, and ecological studies for environmental impact assessment (undertaken at a specific time of year).
- Wastewater engineering consultant: to determine suitable wastewater system (domestic, trade) for the site and proposed development within regulatory requirements and compliance obligations.
- Hydrogeologist/hydrologist: if required, would be engaged to help identify water quality input, water availability, soil type.

- Soil evaluation consultant: may be required in relation to trade waste and domestic waste treatment considerations and approvals and should be undertaken at a specific time of year.

Who needs this information: different reports and plans will be required by local and state government regulators to assess the proposed development against their legislative and regulatory requirements.



TOP TIP

- Engage a consultant to determine the most suitable wastewater system (domestic and trade) for the development type and location (including consideration of future needs).
- Use an appropriately qualified consultant to deliver the required assessment or report eg. use an environmental consultant for environment reports.

PHASE 4: DETERMINATION

- Trade waste consultant: you may need to engage a trade waste consultant to implement the approval with any conditions as provided in the determination advice.

Who needs this information: if you have engaged a consultant, they will require the relevant determination, approval and conditions to ensure compliance of the project.



TOP TIP

You will need to engage an appropriately qualified entity and not a plumber.

PHASE 5: PREPARE TO OPERATE

- Trade waste consultant: Some permits may require an understanding of trade waste (eg. load, quality, waste profile) for which a consultant could assist to ensure compliance.

Who needs this information: state government to ensure you are meeting the conditions of your approval.

PHASE 6: MANAGE BUSINESS RESPONSIBILITIES

- Environmental consultant: to undertake groundwater and soil sampling as part of a nutrient and irrigation management plan (if required).
- Hydraulic consultant: may be engaged to provide information to regulators on water sampling for non-scheme water supplies, back flow testing, water volume and flow rate.
- Trade waste consultant: may be considered for undertaking sampling for reporting and compliances.
- Other consultants: some beverage businesses employ consultants to action Australian Taxation Office (ATO) compliances such as lodging excise returns, measuring alcohol volume and strength to calculate excise and lodging reports on the destruction of alcohol.



TOP TIP

You may not need to engage a consultant to undertake compliance reporting for all approvals related to wastewater and trade waste, or ATO compliance reporting.

PHASE 7: GROW AND DIVERSIFY

Should you consider diversifying your business operations (eg. expand product range, increase production, co-locate with another business) you may be required to seek approvals from local, state and federal government.



TOP TIP

Consider your future plans in your business case, designs and approvals for your proposed development.

In addition to the above:

- Check with each agency as they may be able to provide you with free or low-cost advice (eg. business planning, Nutrient Irrigation Management Planning, trade waste and wastewater connection to sewer, ATO licences).
- Prior to engaging a consultant ask for evidence of their work for similar proposals that have been successful, and/or references.

Example: Consultant Consideration Guide

1. Description of operations

- Location
- Local government area
- Proposed land use

2. Water management

- Catchment description
- Hydrogeology / hydrology
- Soil profile
- Water source and availability
- Total water usage onsite per year
- Design capacity of beverage production equipment
- Total trade waste discharge per year
- Total wastewater (trade & domestic) discharge per year to:
 - Sewer / disposal
 - Onsite treatment system
 - Onsite irrigation
 - Transported offsite
- Flow and quality limits
- Any projected changes over the next 5 years
- Compliance and reporting requirements

3. Solid Waste

- Type and amount of product per year
- How it will be addressed (eg. objectives, infrastructure, amount, timeframe)

4. Activities that contribute to trade waste and solid waste generated onsite

- Wash down
- Equipment cleaning
- Dust suppression
- Vehicle washing

5. Site Plan

- Layout
- Roads and pathways
- Storage facilities
- Service connections
- Hazardous goods storage areas
- Pipes and what they carry
- Buildings (use type) and process areas
- Trade waste areas
- Solid waste areas
- Discharge points
- Environmentally sensitive areas (eg. waterways, bushland)