



Summary of Pollution Incident Response Management Plans for Mid-Western Regional Council Sewerage Schemes

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1. Introduction

All Mid-Western Regional Council (MWRC) Sewerage Treatment Plants that discharge to the environment operate under an Environment Protection Licence issued by the New South Wales Environment Protection Authority. The respective licences cover all sewerage assets within the relevant treatment plant catchment area including sewer pumping stations, sewer pressure and gravity mains, and odour control facilities.

1.1 Background

Mid-Western Regional Council provides highly efficient and effective sewerage systems that collect, treat and dispose of sewage in an environmentally friendly manner. Council operates sewerage schemes in:

- Kandos (EPA Licence No. 1737)
- Rylstone (EPA Licence No. 1958)
- Mudgee (EPA Licence No.5230)
- Gulgong (EPA Licence No.5808)

1.2 Legislative Requirements

The specific requirements for Pollution Incident Response Management Plans (PIRMP) are set out in Part 5.7A of the POEO Act and the Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 2009 (POEO (G) Regulation). The following is required:

- All holders of environment protection licences must prepare a PIRMP (section 153A, POEO Act).
- The plan must include the information detailed in the POEO Act (section 153C) and be in the form required by the POEO (G) Regulation (clause 98B).
- Licensees must keep the plan at the premises to which the environment protection licence relates (section 153D, POEO Act).
- Licensees must test the plan in accordance with the POEO (G) Regulation (clause 98E).

- If a pollution incident occurs in the course of an activity so that material harm to the environment is caused or threatened, licensees must immediately implement the plan (section 153F, POEO Act).

1.3 Aims and Objectives

This document summarises the content of PRIMP's that have been implemented for each MWRC Sewerage Scheme. Each PIRMP aims to ensure the following:

- Comprehensive and timely communication about a pollution incident to staff at the premises, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), other relevant authorities specified in the Act (such as local councils, NSW Ministry of Health, WorkCover NSW, and Fire and Rescue NSW) and people outside the facility who may be affected by the impacts of the pollution incident.
- Minimise and control the risk of a pollution incident at the facility by requiring identification of risks and the development of planned actions to minimise and manage those risks.
- The plan is properly implemented by trained staff, identifying persons responsible for implementing it, and ensuring that the plan is regularly tested for accuracy, currency and suitability.

Specific PIRMP's have been implemented to each sewerage scheme and are kept at the licensed premises. If a specific PIRMP is required kindly contact Mid-Western Regional Council on (02) 6378 2850.

2. Pollution Incident Response Management Plan

2.1 Definition of Pollution Incident

The definition of a pollution incident is:

Pollution incident means an incident or set of circumstances during or as a consequence of which there is or is likely to be a leak, spill or other escape or deposit of a substance, as a result of which pollution has occurred, is occurring or is likely to occur. It includes an incident or set of circumstances in which a substance has been placed or disposed of on premises, but it does not include an incident or set of circumstances involving only the emission of any noise (see the POEO Act 1997).

A pollution incident is required to be notified if there is a risk of 'material harm to the environment', which is defined in section 147 of the POEO Act as:

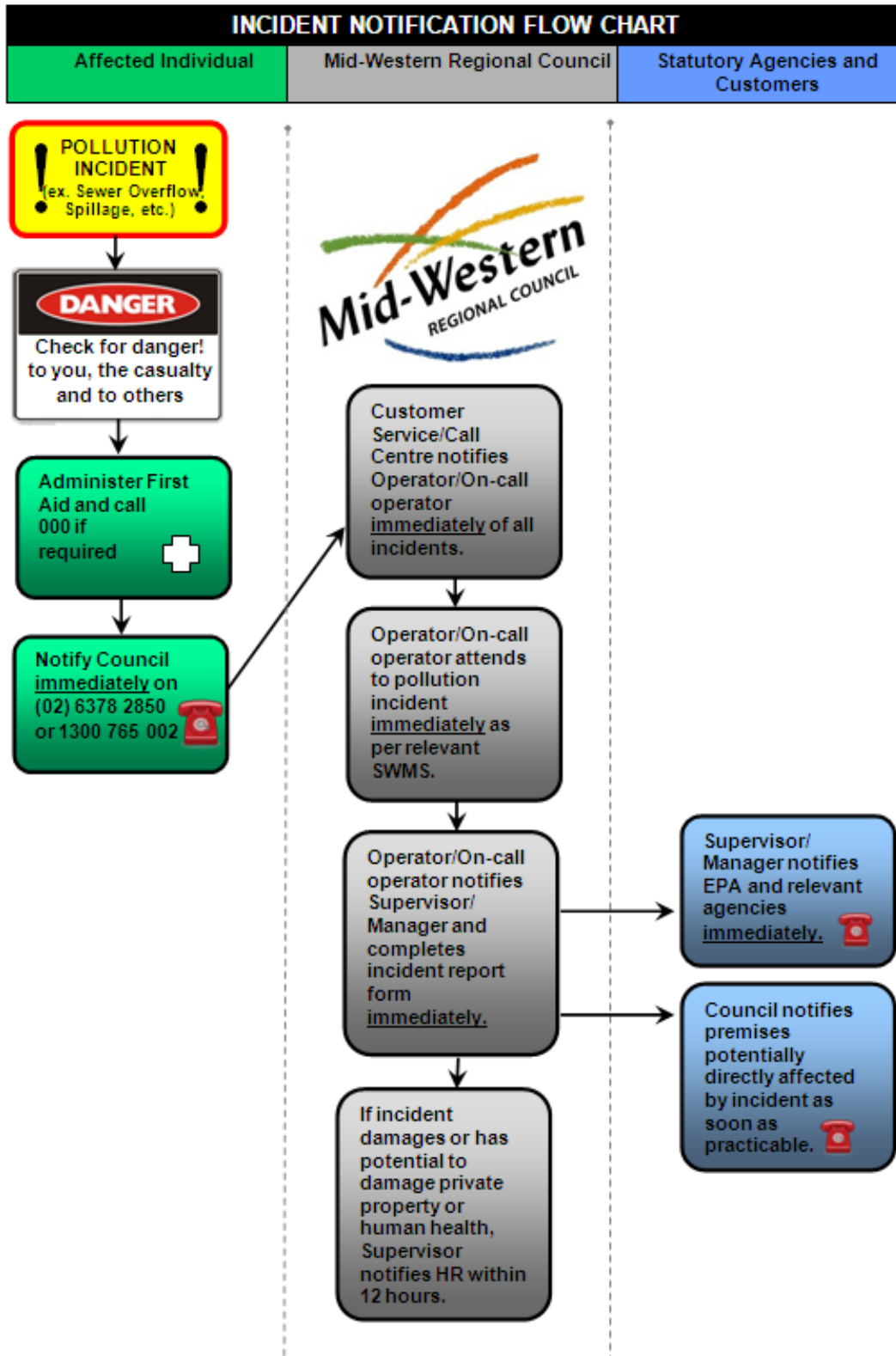
- a) harm to the environment is material if:
 - (i) it involves actual or potential harm to the health or safety of human beings or to ecosystems that is not trivial, or
 - (ii) it results in actual or potential loss or property damage of an amount, or amounts in aggregate, exceeding \$10,000 (or such other amount as is prescribed by the regulations), and
- b) Loss includes the reasonable costs and expenses that would be incurred in taking all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent, mitigate or make good harm to the environment.

2.2 Notification of Pollution Incident

This section details the response requirements in the event of an incident. In all situations:

The 24 hour emergency number for Mid-Western Regional Council is (02) 6378 2850 or 1300 765 002, the toll-free switch

During working hours, these calls are taken by staff at the Mid-Western Regional Council Customer Service Centre. If the call is after hours, the call is redirected to a call centre, who informs appropriate personnel of issues and incidents. Mid-Western Regional Council's Pollution Incident Procedure can be seen in the following flow chart.



2.2.1 Human Health or Safety Incident

If there is immediate threat to human health or safety, call triple zero “000” and if required, evacuate the site.

2.2.2 Pollution Incident

During a pollution incident which involves actual or potential harm to the health or safety of human beings or to ecosystems that is not trivial, Mid-Western Regional Council must notify the relevant authorities immediately:

- | | | |
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| 1. | The Environment Protection Authority | 131 555 |
| 2. | NSW Health | 1300 555 555 |
| 3. | Work Cover | 131 050 |
| 4. | Fire & Rescue | 000 |

Mid-Western Regional Council will also contact where relevant, the following as soon as practical:

- | | | |
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| 1. | Affected neighbours | |
| 2. | Fisheries | 1800 043 536 |
| 3. | Chemical supplier | Refer to the MSDS |
| 4. | Police | (02) 6374 1300 |

For details of other contacts that might be required see Additional Emergency Contacts in the following table.

MID-WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL EMERGENCY CONTACTS



| Organisation | Contact Person Details (name, position, etc.) | Telephone Number |
|--------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Emergency Services | | 000 |
| Mudgee Police | | 6372 8599 |
| Gulgong Police | | 6374 1300 |
| Rylstone Police | | 6379 1000 |
| Kandos Police | | 6379 4000 |
| Mudgee Fire Brigade | | 6372 6772 |
| Gulgong Fire Brigade | | 6331 6372 |
| Kandos Fire Brigade | | 6379 4021 |
| Fire & Rescue | | 1800 347 437 |
| Mudgee Bush Fire Brigade | | 6372 6772 |
| Gulgong Medical Centre | | 6374 1104 |
| Mudgee Hospital | | 6378 6222 |
| Rylstone Hospital | | 6357 8111 |
| Mudgee Medical Centre | | 6372 8100 |
| South Mudgee Surgery | | 6372 4355 |
| Volunteer Rescue Association | | 1300 872 777 |
| NSW Poisons Information Centre | Westmead Children's Hospital | 13 11 26 |

2.3 Information to be notified

In the process of notifying the relevant authorities the following information shall be communicated to each authority in accordance with the POEO Regulation 2012 (C 148) during pollution incidents causing or threatening material harm:

- The time, date, nature, duration and location of the incident,
- The location of the place where pollution is occurring or is likely to occur,
- The nature, the estimated quantity or volume and the concentration of any pollutants involved, if known,
- The circumstances in which the incident occurred (including the cause of the incident, if known),
- The action taken or proposed to be taken to deal with the incident and any resulting pollution or threatened pollution, if known,
- Other information prescribed by the regulations

2.4 Notification of Neighbours

Impacts on the community due to sewage distribution and treatment incidents are variable and depend on location, volumes of spills and other factors. Varied communication methods will be used on a case by case basis and in all situations Mid-Western Regional Council will attempt to provide early warning to directly affected premises by phone call or site visit. Early warning is to include details of what the imminent incident is, how those affected can prepare and respond, and provide important advice such as avoiding contact and use of affected waterways.

Where early warning is not possible Mid-Western Regional Council will provide notification and communication during and after an incident to advise those affected with information, advice and updates. Notification and communication methods will be determined on a case by case basis and the following methods may be used:

- Phone calls
- Site visits/door knocking
- Letter drops
- Warning signs
- Other methods as the situation requires