

Pollution Incident Response Management Plan:

**Riverina Water County Council Water
Filtration Plant Site 91 Hammond Avenue
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650
(Lot 2 DP 540063)**



**Version 2.0
October 2023**

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1 BACKGROUND

To improve the efficiency of pollution reporting, NSW Parliament amended the Protection of the Environment Operations (POEO) Act 1997 resulting in the Protection of the Environment Legislation Amendment (POELA) Act 2011.

The Riverina Water County Council (RWCC) Pollution Incident Response Plan (PIRMP) has been prepared in accordance with the POEO Act 1997, POEO (General) Regulation 2009 and Preparation of PIRMP's Environmental Guidelines 2012.

2 PIRMP OBJECTIVES

PIRMP OBJECTIVES

As stated in the Guidelines:

- *ensure 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, SafeWork 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*
- *ensure that 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.*

3 LEGISLATIVE PIRMP INFORMATION

The requirements for a PIRMP are set out in the POEO Act 1997, Part 5.7A

In summary,

- *All holders of environment protection licences (EPL) must prepare a pollution incident response management plan (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 or, in the case of trackable waste transporters and mobile plant, where the relevant activity takes place (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).

4 DEFINITION OF A “POLLUTION INCIDENT”

Section 147 of the POEO Act defines a “pollution Incident” 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.*

5 RISK ASSESSMENT

RWCC has carried out a full Risk Assessment on all potential pollutants stored on site at 91 Hammond Ave, Wagga. It is on this study that RWCC has determined the level of emergency of a pollution incident.

TABLE 1 – Internal Categorisation of Environment incidences

		Harm to humans on adjacent properties		
		Yes - 1	Potentially - 2	No -3
Actual Environmental Impact	Major - A	A1	A2	A3
	Minor - B	B1	B2	B3
Potential Environmental Impact	Major - C	-	C2	C3
	Minor - D	-	D2	D3

6 REPORTING OF A POLLUTION INCIDENT

EPL holders must report all incidences immediately to the EPA Pollution Line 131555, including those on a construction site that is controlled by a contractor. RWCC shall make all contractors aware of the reporting requirement in the contract documentation and make the contractor responsible for immediately reporting any incidences to the RWCC project manager.

A pollution incident occurrence at RWCC 91 Hammond Ave, Wagga Wagga can be reported to and co-ordinated by the following personnel:

TABLE 2 - List of persons authorised to implement environmental emergency response procedures

Job title	24 Hour Contact Number	External Phone Number	Internal Extension Number
1. Director Engineering	0429 337 930	6922 0656	656
2. Manager Operations	0408 695 681	6922 0658	658
3. Manager Projects	0417 438 046	6922 0684	684
4. Manager Works	0417 680 189	6922 0657	657
5. Operations Engineer	0429 901 890	6922 0670	670
6. Works Supervisor	0417 234 924	6922 0618	618
7. Operations Supervisor	0458 882 792	6922 0672	672
8. Water Quality Supervisor	0407 806 082	6922 0663	663

TABLE 3 – Relevant Authorities’ Notification Order

Relevant authorities’ notification order	
If there is an immediate threat to human health or the environment:	
1. Call Fire and Rescue first	000
2. EPA	131 555
3. Public Health Unit, Murrumbidgee & Southern NSW Local Health Districts	6053 4800
4. SafeWork NSW	131 050
5. Wagga Wagga City Council	1300 292 442
If there is not an immediate threat to human health or the environment:	
1. Call EPA first	131555
2. Wagga Wagga City Council	1300 292 442
3. Public Health Unit, Murrumbidgee & Southern NSW Local Health Districts	6053 4800
4. SafeWork NSW	131 050
5. Fire and Rescue	1300 729 579

Riverina Water County Council’s appropriate regulatory authority notification order is below:

Early warnings for affected or potentially affected community members for any pollution incident are to be communicated to those members via a door knock process. The Director of Engineering or nominee will be responsible for coordinating the door knock.

For air pollution incidents that may affect neighbours, those neighbours will be asked to close their doors and windows and stay indoors until further notice.

For water pollution incidents that may affect neighbours who could access the said water, those neighbours will be asked to avoid use of the water until further notice.

Regular updates of any pollution incidents will be via radio announcements, letterbox drop to the local community, notices in local papers or via door knocks as required.

7 TESTING OF THE PIRMP

Part 3A, clause 98E of the POEO (General) Regulation advises that all PIRMP's be tested on an annual basis or within 1 month of a pollution incident.

(1) The testing of a plan is to be carried out in such a manner as to ensure that the information included in the plan is accurate and up to date and the plan is capable of being implemented in a workable and effective manner.

(2) Any such test is to be carried out:

(a) routinely at least once every 12 months, and

(b) within 1 month of any pollution incident occurring in the course of an activity to which the licence relates so as to assess, in the light of that incident, whether the information included in the plan is accurate and up to date and the plan is still capable of being implemented in a workable and effective manner

8 TRAINING

Riverina Water County Council will carry out staff training to ensure all employees are aware of the PIRMP content and path of action.

9 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PIRMP

In keeping with the requirements of Section 153F of the POEO Act,

If a pollution incident occurs in the course of an activity so that material harm to the environment (within the meaning of section 147) is caused or threatened, the person carrying on the activity must immediately implement any pollution incident response management plan in relation to the activity required by this Part.

10 AVAILABILITY OF THE PIRMP

A full copy of the Riverina Water County Council Pollution Incident Response Plan is available on request at Administration Building, 91 Hammond Ave, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650, and on the Riverina Water intranet.