



# Murrumbidgee COUNCIL

## POLLUTION INCIDENT RESPONSE MANAGEMENT PLAN

### JERILDERIE SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS



## DOCUMENT CONTROL

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# POLLUTION INCIDENT RESPONSE MANAGEMENT PLAN

## JERILDERIE SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS

### 1. Introduction

This Pollution Incident Response Management Plan (PIRMP) has been developed to meet the requirements of the "Protection of the Environment Legislation Amendment Act 2011 (POELA Act).

The POELA Act has introduced changes to improve the way pollution incidents are reported, managed and communicated to the general community.

The Act includes a new requirement under Part 5.7A of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEO Act) to prepare, keep, test and implement a pollution incident response management plan.

The objectives of these plans are to:

- 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, 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
- 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.

This PIRMP covers the Darlington Point Sewage Treatment Works, which has an Environment Protection Licence.

### 2. 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.

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.

### **3. Description and Likelihood of Hazards**

The nature and simplicity of operation of the Darlington Point Sewage Treatment Works presents very low risk.

The Environment Protection Licence allows for discharge to the Billabong Creek but this has not occurred for at least 20 years as all treated effluent either evaporates or is supplied to the nearby racecourse as required.

The only potential source of pollutant is treated effluent from the effluent ponds. The effluent ponds have an available capacity about double the required capacity. Further, the ponds are constructed such that any area of concern can be isolated from the main system of ponds. For example, if a pond bank needs to be isolated it can be isolated from the rest of the pond system without affecting the operation of the works.

### **4. Pre-emptive actions to be taken**

Activities carried out at the STW pose minimal risk of harm to the environment or human health.

Council maintains spill kits and an incident response trailer at the Murrumbidgee Council Jerilderie Depot for responding to incidents. The Depot has available earthmoving equipment and materials (sand, sandbags, etc.) to create containment banks or to cover large spills.

### **5. Inventory of Pollutants**

Other than typical household quantities for general maintenance activities, there is no fuel, gas or other hazardous material storage on site.

### **6. Safety Equipment**

No fuels, chemicals or other hazardous materials are stored on the site so no safety equipment, other than a fire extinguisher, is maintained on site. The Jerilderie Fire and Rescue are HAZMAT accredited and are the first point of call for any situation requiring dealing with hazardous materials.

## 7. Contact Details

Relevant Council personnel contact details are:

Name	Position Title	Office Hours Ph No.	After Hours Ph
John Scarce	General Manager	03 58861200	
Tom Dimec	Director Of Infrastructure	03 58861200	
Justin Williams	Infrastructure Manager	03 58861200	0429 704 835
24hr Callout Number	Sewerage Operator	0427 487 833	0427 487 833

The key responsibility for activation, management and notification of relevant authorities rests with the Director of Infrastructure or his delegate if he is unavailable.

The EPA has developed a notification protocol for notifying relevant authorities when material harm to the environment is caused or threatened.

Firstly, call 000 if the incident presents an immediate threat to human health or property. Fire and Rescue NSW, the NSW Police and the NSW Ambulance Service are the first responders, as they are responsible for controlling and containing incidents.

If the incident does not require an initial combat agency, or once the 000 call has been made, relevant authorities are notified in the order shown below.

Immediate threat to human health or property	Fire, Police, Ambulance	000
EPA	Environment Line	131 555
Ministry of Health	Griffith Public Health Unit	02 6080 8900 (diverts to Albury Base Hospital)- ask for Public Health Officer on call
Work Safe NSW		13 10 50
Fire and Rescue NSW	If the situation warranted calling 000 initially you do not need to ring Fire and Rescue again	1300 729 579
Murrumbidgee Council	Sewerage Plant Operator	0427 487 833

## 8. Communicating with Neighbours and the Local Community

Immediate neighbours to the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) include a large dry land property to the North and West, Billabong Creek and a residential property to the South and the Jerilderie Racecourse to the East. The main township of Jerilderie is on the southern side of the Billabong Creek to the STP.

The type of incident and weather conditions will influence properties most likely to be affected. If a notifiable incident occurs neighbouring properties likely to be affected will be door knocked. Warning signs will be erected if necessary.

If the incident has the potential to affect the Billabong Creek, downstream users and the relevant authority will be notified.

If media notification is necessary, the EPA / General Manager of Murrumbidgee Council will provide advice which will include:

- Incident detail and location
- Any precautions to take
- Contact for further

information Media Contact

details are as follows:

CONTACT	ADDRESS	PHONE Bus Hrs	PHONE A/HRS
Southern Riverina News	Finley	03 5883 1033	
Pastoral Times	End St , Deniliquin	03 5881 2322	03 5881 2322
Radio 2QN	George St , Deniliquin	03 5881 1811	03 5881 1811
ABC Radio	Wagga Wagga	02 6923 4811	02 6923 4811

## 9. Minimising Harm to Persons on the Premises

The Jerilderie STP is a low risk, basic, trickling filter plant with a design capacity of 2000 EP. The town population is approximately 1000. Although it is licensed to discharge to the Billabong Creek, this does not occur, with treated effluent evaporating or used on the nearby racecourse as per the licence. It generally only requires employee attendance twice a day totalling about 1 hour per day.

The safety of workers and others at the premises is covered under **Councils Safety Management Plan**.

## 10. Actions to be taken During or Immediately after a Pollution Incident

Routine pollution incidents are initially handled by relevant Council operational employees. These incidents would be reported and managed in accordance with Council's organisational Safety Plan.

Responsibility for management of notifiable pollution incidents rests with the Assistant General Manager, Infrastructure & Environment or his delegate. The actions required will be governed by the nature of the incident.

Actions to be taken immediately after a pollution incident occurs may include:

- Warnings and notifications
- Establishing command structure and communication
- Containment such as using spill containment equipment, shutting off valves or processes
- Determining if other resources, contractors or hire equipment, are required
- Clean-up and rehabilitation
- Record keeping

## **11. Staff Training**

Relevant administrative and operational staff will be trained in this Plan. Any relevant replacement staff will be trained as part of their induction for new employees. A record of training will be maintained in the corporate training system.

## **12. Testing and Review**

This Plan will be reviewed and tested annually. This will confirm accuracy and currency of information contained within the Plan, and that the Plan is capable of being implemented in a workable and effective manner.

Testing may be by a desktop simulation or a practical exercise.

Records will be kept showing:



- Manner in which the plan was tested
- Date of testing
- Staff members who carried out the testing
- Date plan was updated.

Testing will also be carried out within one month of any pollution incident.



## Appendix A

### Pollution Incident Response Management Plan Training Record

Date	Employee Print & Sign Name	Training Description
20/4/2023	Aaron Purcell 	Desktop Review of Pollution Incident Plan for STW
20/4/2023	Justin Williams 	Desktop Review of Pollution Incident Plan for STW

