



Pollution Incident Response Management Plan

Nimbin Sewage Treatment Plant

Licence 4468

(This PIRMP is prepared in compliance with the requirements of the *Protection of the Environment Legislation Amendment Act, 2011* (POELA Act))

- Licensees must keep a copy of this plan at the premises
- Licensees must test the plan every 12 months
- If a pollution incident occurs, where there is a “material harm to the environment” the plan must be implemented.

1.0 Description and Likelihood of Hazards

A pollution incident, in accordance with the Environmental guidelines: preparation of pollution incident response management plans, is defined as *“an incident or set of circumstances during or as a consequence of which there is likely to be a leak, spill or other escape or a 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 the emission of any noise.”*

Description of the Plant

Nimbin Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) is located at 4 West Road, Nimbin, 2480.

It is an IDEA plant that flows into three tertiary ponds prior to discharge into Goolmangar Creek.

Description of Hazards

In identifying the risks to the environment and staff due to any incident an analysis was carried out on the Inventory of Pollutants.

It was determined the only risk to the environment, due to the plant design, was due to a MLSS carry over into the environment.

It was determined that any internal spill would flow into the oxidation pond and if not contained, into Goolmangar Creek.

The risk to staff due to a chemical spill incident is identified in the MSDS. Management of these incidents is defined in Council's SWMS/JSA's and as a consequence all staff that handle chemicals are trained in the SMS/JSA's and have completed a chemical handling course.

2.0 Pre-emptive Actions Taken

Council pre-emptive action includes for training and staff:

- Council Induction
- Site Specific Induction
- MSDS register onsite
- MSDS training
- JSA preparation for all tasks
- SWMS training
- Daily toolbox meetings.

Records of all training are management in accordance with Council's corporate procedure.

Design pre-emptive actions taken are:

- Tertiary treatment ponds
- Bunding for chemicals in compliance with the dangerous and hazardous goods legislation

3.0 Inventory of Pollutants

Chemicals

Title	Dangerous Good	Hazardous Substance	Main use	Location	Current MSDS	Quantity	Risk Assessment
Aluminium Sulphate (alum)	NO	YES	Phosphorus removal	Bulk chemical storage	YES	15000 L	Bunded Area with restricted access
Sodium Hydroxide (caustic)	YES	YES	Neutralising agent	Bulk chemical storage	YES	15000 L	Bunded Area with restricted access
Hydrochloric acid	YES	YES	Neutralising agent	Bulk chemical storage	YES	40 L	Bunded Area with restricted access

4.0 Safety Equipment

All safety equipment is provided in accordance with Council's policy and MSDS requirements.

Training is provided in the use of safety equipment when staff perform their training in SWMS.

5.0 Contact Details

All contact details of staff are listed on Council's Intranet, and "Works – Wyrallah Road Depot" contact list.

Council's after hour telephone number shall be the first point of contact. 1300 878 387

In the event of any incident, the following staff is to be contacted (in order of priority of contact):

- Co-ordinator Water Treatment and Trades – Stephen Brown (0419 564 627)
- Treatment Plants Process Engineer – Harini Pani (0470 636 793)
- Manager Water and Wastewater – Tom Lloyd (0408 229 176)

Other contact details are:

- Emergency Services (000)
- Ambulance (13 12 33)
- Essential Energy (132 080)
- Elgas (131 161)
- EPA Pollution Line (131 555)
- Fire Brigade – Goonellabah (6624 1311)
- Fire Brigade – Lismore (6621 5660)
- Hospital – Lismore (6621 0200)
- Hospital – Nimbin (6689 1400)
- NSW Health (1300 555 555 ask for pager 48073 if no response phone Assistant Director Public Health 0407 904 280)
- Poisons Information (131 126)
- Police – Lismore (6626 0599)
- Police – Nimbin (6627 6400)
- Rural Fire Service (6621 5660)
- SES – Brunswick Street (132 500)
- SES – Brunswick Street (6627 7022)
- SES – Duty Officer (0407 219 400)
- Summerland Security (6625 5900)

- Telstra (6622 1863)
- WorkCover (9214 9220)
- Adjacent Property Owner: Torsten Wilthopf, 2 West Road, Nimbin, 0429 082 232.

6.0 Communication with Neighbours and the Local Community

Nimbin STP is adjacent to 2 West Road, Nimbin.

If required the local community shall be contacted in accordance with Council's Emergency Management Plan procedure.

7.0 Minimising Harm to Persons on the Premises

All LCC staff are inducted and trained in the use of PPE in their operations.

All staff working onsite shall be immunised against the appropriate disease in accordance with Council's vaccination protocol.

All chemical handling will be in accordance with the requirements of the relevant MSDS kept onsite.

In the event of an incident occurring, the emergency onsite procedure shall be activated, with all staff mustering to the Emergency Assembly Area.

Instructions to staff for immediate action shall then be determined.

8.0 Action to be Taken During or Immediately After a Pollution Incident

The following shall occur if a reportable incident occurs:

1. Contact Coordinator Water treatment and trades(if there is an incident at the STP site) Stephen Brown on 0419 564 627
2. Contact Coordinator Water and Wastewater Blake Brewer Charles on 0437 810 483 (if there is an incident within the sewerage system –)
3. Contact Treatment Plant Engineer Harini Pani 0470 636 793
4. Notify EPA through the pollution incident response line 131 555
5. Determine follow up actions as necessary.

9.0 Staff Training

All unsupervised staff working onsite shall have the following training:

- Council Induction
- Site induction
- Confined Spaces
- NSW Department of Planning and Environment Operator Training for non trades staff
- Chemical Handling
- Certificate 3 in Water Operation.

10.0 Testing Plans

The testing of this plan shall occur once per year for a simulated incident and staff re-induction into this plan.

All sewage treatment plant staff shall meet at the South Lismore STP for a training exercise on sewage spill containment and chemical tank failure management procedure.

The names of the attendees taking part in the training exercise shall be recorded on the risk assessment record for the task.

11.0 STP incident Implementing Plans

In the event of untreated sewage spilling the plant the following shall occur:

1. Isolate discharge valves to the oxidation pond
2. Pump to sludge pond if needed.

12.0 Sewerage Reticulation Implementation

After an identified sewage spill is reported and where it has been determined that a pollution incident shall be reported to the EPA, the following shall be implemented immediately:

1. Council's Operations Engineer shall be notified immediately for an assessment of the situation.
2. Traffic control is to be established to detour traffic away or pedestrians around the sewage spill area.
3. The spill shall be contained, however possible, and all raw sewage pumped out of the containment and deposited safely.
4. The spillage area shall be disinfected then flushed with potable water.

Where the risk of raw sewage contact occurring to the public, Council's Public Health Officers are to be contacted through the Customer Contact Centre and an assessment requested.

Following any incident, where raw sewage has entered a waterway, Rous Water is also to be contacted, and advised of the incident.

Contact details for Rous Water are:

- rousoperations@rouswater.nsw.gov.au.
- serviceenquirygroup@rous.nsw.gov.au

13.0 Maps

