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Narromine Shire Council
Pollution Incident Response Management Plan
Narromine Sewage Treatment Plant
September 2012

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- Information provided to GHD by Narromine Shire Council*
- Observations from GHD's site visits*
- Map information provided by Narromine Shire Council.*

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1. External web-based version

This external web-based version of the Pollution Incident Response Management Plan (PIRMP) has been prepared in accordance with the Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) requirements that only the following sections of the plan be made publically available:

- ▶ procedures for contacting the "relevant authorities"
- ▶ procedures for communicating with the community
- ▶ excluding any personal information within the meaning of the Privacy and Personal Information protection Act 1998.

A copy of the full PIRMP is maintained at the premises to which the relevant licence relates and is readily available to the persons responsible for implementing the plan and to an authorised officer of the EPA on request.

2. Background

2.1 Sewage Treatment Plant

Narromine Shire Council (Council) operates a sewage treatment plant at the property "Redlands", owned by Council. The property fronts the Mitchell Highway along its south western boundary with rural properties surrounding the remainder of the property.

The Redlands Effluent Irrigation Scheme comprises of:

- ▶ A multipond oxidation pond type treatment plant sized to accommodate Narromine's sewerage treatment requirements to a future projected load of 4,000 equivalent persons
- ▶ A 160 ML effluent storage pond to store effluent during periods not suited to irrigation
- ▶ An effluent irrigation system consisting of a pump station drawing from the effluent storage pond to supply a 45 ha centre pivot irrigator
- ▶ A sewer reticulation network consisting of nine pump stations.

The STP operates under EPL 11715 which is issued under Section 55 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

2.2 PIRMP Purpose

The EPL contains requirements to report pollution incidents as outlined in Section 6, Reporting conditions:

The licensee or its employees must notify the EPA of incidents causing or threatening material harm to the environment immediately after the person becomes aware of the incident in accordance with the requirements of Part 5.7 of the Act.

R2.1 Notifications must be made by telephoning the Environment Line service on 131 555.

R2.2 The licensee must provide written details of the notification to the EPA within seven days of the date on which the incident occurred.

The introduction of the *Protection of the Environment Legislation Amendment Act 2011* (POELA Act) in February 2012 requires that holders of EPLs maintain a Pollution Incident Response Management Plan (PIRMP).

3. Pollution Incident Response Planning

3.1 Notifiable Incidents

3.1.1 POEO Act Definitions

A pollution incident is defined by the POEO Act as:

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.

Material harm is defined by the POEO Act as:

(1) For the purposes of this Part:

(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) For the purposes of this Part, it does not matter that harm to the environment is caused only in the premises where the pollution incident occurs.

4. Incident Response

4.1 Immediate Notification Incident

4.1.1 Incident Response & Notification

As per the definition of an immediate notification incident in section 3.1.1 and resulting from the risk assessment in the full PIRMP (as held by Council), Council have identified the following incidents related to their sewer operations that require immediate notification:

- ▶ Pump station and SCADA failure resulting in an overflow from the pump station.

Council's procedures for responding to a potential immediate notification incident are outlined in Figure 1.

Contact details for external agencies requiring notification is provided Table 1. Contact details for Council personnel responsible for incident response and notification is maintained in the full PIRMP held by Council.

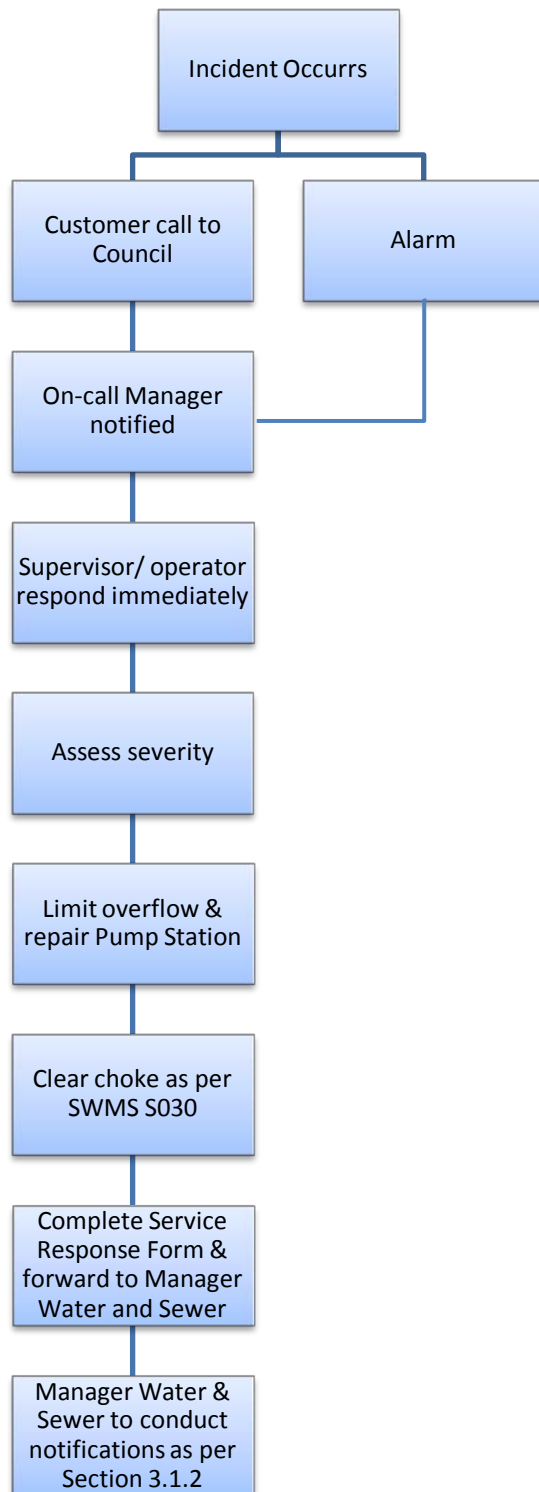


Figure 1 Incident Response Flowchart

Table 1 Incident Contact Details – External

Organisation	Contact Number
Emergency Services	000
EPA Dubbo Regional Office	131 555 02 6883 5330
NSW Ministry of Health On Call Public Health Officer Dubbo Regional Office	0418 866 397 02 6841 5569
WorkCover	131 050
Fire & Rescue NSW Narromine Rural Fire Service	02 6889 4222

4.1.2 Responsibilities

In the event of an immediate notification incident responsibilities for incident management are as follows:

- ▶ On Call Manager is responsible for actioning response to the incident.
- ▶ Manager Water and Sewer is responsible for notifying external authorities, potentially affected community and ensuring adequate resources are available for incident response.
- ▶ General Manager is responsible for liaising with the media.

The Manager Water and Sewer shall determine the most appropriate means of contacting potentially affected community including:

- ▶ Door knocking
- ▶ Letterbox drops
- ▶ Phone
- ▶ Local media
- ▶ Signage.

Information provided to the community would depend on the incident but could include:

- ▶ Description of the incident
- ▶ Status of incident
- ▶ Response actions
- ▶ Actions to minimise harm
- ▶ Likely duration.

As per the EPL, the licensee must provide written details of the notification to the EPA within seven days of the date on which the incident occurred.

4.2 General Incident

4.2.1 Sewer Operations

Council maintain incident response procedures for other potential incidents throughout the sewer network including:

- ▶ Sewer choke.

The EPL requires details of the incidents be recorded as per the Service Response Form (Appendix A) and maintained by Council.

Where sewage or partially treated sewage is discharged from the premises as a result of a bypass of the sewage treatment plant, or an observed or reported overflow has occurred from the reticulation system, and overflow or a bypass may pose a risk to public health, the licensee is to promptly give appropriate notification to any parties that are likely to be affected, including:

- ▶ the potentially affected community
- ▶ the Department of Health
- ▶ other parties as identified in, and in accordance with, the OEMP dated February 2005.

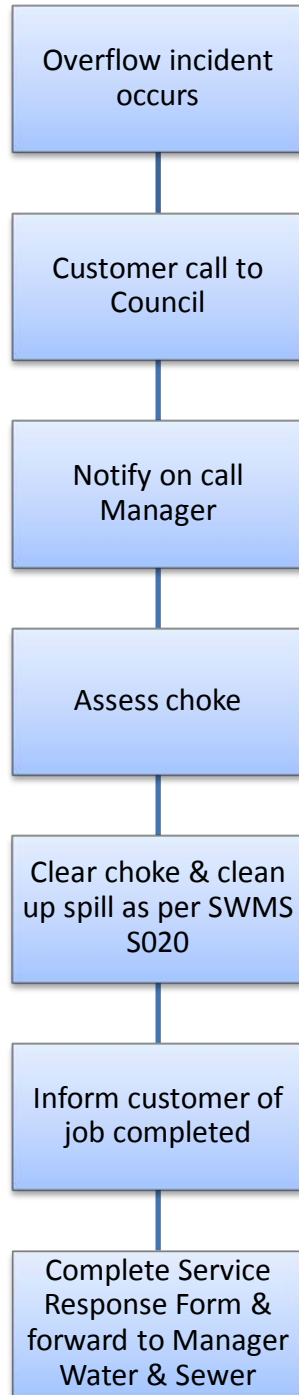


Figure 2 Incident Response Flowchart – Sewer Choke

GHD

72 McNamara St, Orange, NSW 2800
PO BOX 950, Orange, NSW 2800
T: (02) 6393 6400 F: (02) 6393 6401 E: oagmail@ghd.com.au

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Document Status

Rev No.	Author	Reviewer		Approved for Issue		
		Name	Signature	Name	Signature	Date
0	D. Scott	G. Metcalfe	<i>G. Metcalfe</i>	G. Metcalfe	<i>G. Metcalfe</i>	13/09/2012