

# **PIRMP– Rylstone Wastewater Treatment Plant and Sewerage System**

## Contents

<b>POLLUTION INCIDENT RESPONSE MANAGEMENT PLAN (PIRMP)</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Environment Protection Licence (EPL) Details</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Pollution incident – person/s responsible</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Notification of relevant authorities</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Notification of relevant authorities, continued</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Notification of neighbours and the local community</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Description and likelihood of hazards; Pre-emptive actions to be taken</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Inventory of pollutants</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Safety equipment</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Communicating with neighbours and the local community</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Minimising harm to persons on the premises</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Maps</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Actions to be taken during or immediately after a pollution incident</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Initial Call Management</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Incident Management</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Post Incident</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Staff training</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Testing and updating of the PIRMP</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Appendix B: MWRC Risk Matrix</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Appendix C: Maps of STP and Pump Stations</b>	<b>20</b>

## POLLUTION INCIDENT RESPONSE MANAGEMENT PLAN (PIRMP)

LICENCE NUMBER: 1958

**Position/Title:** Manager Water and Sewer

**Date:** 11/03/2022

### PURPOSE:

Mid-Western Regional Council holds an Environment Protection Licence with the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) for Rylstone Wastewater Treatment Plant. As per the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (the POEO Act), Mid-Western regional Council must prepare, keep, test and implement a pollution incident response management plan (PIRMP) that complies with Part 5.7A of the POEO Act.

If a pollution incident occurs in the course of our activities so that material harm to the environment (within the meaning of section 147 of the POEO Act) is caused or threatened, Mid-Western Regional Council will **immediately** implement this plan as required by Part 5.7A of the POEO Act.

A copy of this plan is kept at the licensed premises and can be made available on request by an authorised EPA officer and to any person who is responsible for implementing this plan.

Parts of the plan is also available on Mid-Western Regional Council website as set out in clause 98D of the Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 2009.

NOTE: This plan has been developed in accordance with the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* and the Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 2009.

### NOTIFICATION OF A POLLUTION INCIDENT

Notification is required if a pollution incident causes or threatens to cause 'material harm to the environment'. Harm to the environment is material as per section 147 of the POEO Act 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 the 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.

Notification is required even where 'harm to the environment is caused only in the premises where the pollution incident occurs', as specified in section 147(2)

## Environment Protection Licence (EPL) Details

<b>Name of licensee:</b>	Mid-Western regional Council
<b>EPL number:</b>	1958
<b>Premises name and address:</b>	Rylstone Sewage treatment Works, Carwell Street, Rylstone NSW 2849
<b>Contact details</b>	<b>Position or title:</b> Manager Water and Sewer <b>Business hours contact number/s:</b> 1300 765 002 <b>After hours contact number/s:</b> 1300 765 002
<b>Website address:</b>	<a href="http://www.midwestern.nsw.gov.au/">http://www.midwestern.nsw.gov.au/</a>
<b>Scheduled activity/activities on EPL:</b>	Sewage treatment
<b>Fee-based activity/activities on EPL:</b>	Sewage Treatment processing by small plant

## Pollution incident – person/s responsible

<b>PIRMP activation</b>	<b>Position or title:</b> Water and Sewer Process Coordinator <b>Business hours contact number/s:</b> 1300 765 002 <b>After hours contact number/s:</b> 1300 765 002
	<b>Position or title:</b> Manager Water and Sewer <b>Business hours contact number/s:</b> 1300 765 002 <b>After hours contact number/s:</b> 1300 765 002

## Notification of relevant authorities

See below for persons and/or **any relevant authorities requiring to be notified as per Part 5.7A of the POEO Act** in the case of a pollution incident that causes or threatens to cause material harm to the environment.

The following information must be noted and forwarded to the authorities when they are notified of the incident:

- Time and date.
- Nature and location of the incident.
- Duration of the incident (including estimated quantity /volume discharged if applicable)
- Location of areas that may be affected by incident.
- Circumstances in which the incident occurred.
- The proposed action to be taken in dealing with the incident

<b>Fire &amp; Rescue NSW</b>	<b>Contact number/s:</b>	000 Emergency (112 mobile phones) 1300 729 579 (generic) 6379 4021 Kandos Fire & Rescue
<b>EPA (written report to be provided within 7 days)</b>	<b>Contact number/s:</b>	131 555
<b>NSW Health</b>	<b>Relevant Area Health Service:</b> <b>Contact number/s:</b> After hours	Dubbo Office 6809 8979 0418 66 397
<b>SafeWork NSW</b>	<b>Contact number/s:</b>	131 050

## Notification of relevant authorities, continued

See below for persons and/or authorities that also **may** need to be notified in the case of a pollution incident that causes or threatens to cause material harm to the environment.

<b>Department of Planning Industry and Environment (DPIE)</b>	<b>Contact number/s:</b> Generic number (business hours)	1800 353104
<b>WaterNSW</b>	<b>Contact number/s:</b>	1300 662 077

	Emergency reporting – 24h (spills etc)	1800 061 069
<b>Mid-Western, Regional Council (24h)</b>	<b>Contact number/s:</b>	1300 765 002 (02) 6378 2850
<b>Rural Fire Services - Rylstone</b>	<b>Contact number/s:</b>	6372 4434 (Mudgee) Crn Coomber St and Bylong Valley Way
<b>NSW Fisheries – Central Tablelands</b>	<b>Contact number/s:</b>	0488 220 443

### Notification of neighbours and the local community

See Appendix A for the list of high risk stakeholders which includes neighbouring properties

Mid-Western Regional Council will attempt to provide early warning to directly affected premises. Depending on the severity of the incident and the likelihood of impact on the community, a range of communications methods can be deployed during and after an incident. These include:

- Site visits/door knocking
- Phone calls
- SMS messages
- Emails (internal and external)
- Social media, website updates
- Media updates
- Letter drop
- Warning signs
- Depending on the incident; WaterNSW has an early warning system to alert Water Licence Holders. WaterNSW can be contacted and request made for them to send an alert

Description and likelihood of hazards; Pre-emptive actions to be taken

**Sewage overflow**

	Impact	Risk Rating*	Pre-emptive actions
Heavy rainfall	Land/waterway contamination	C 3 = M11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sewerage system maintenance and rehabilitation to reduce infiltration and inflows</li> <li>• Spare capacity in pump wells</li> <li>• Monitoring and maintenance</li> <li>• SCADA alarm</li> </ul>
Power failure	Land/waterway contamination	B 2 = L5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lightning protection</li> <li>• Vegetation management to prevent damage to infrastructure in case of storm</li> <li>• SCADA alarms</li> </ul>
	Impact	Risk Rating*	Pre-emptive actions
Blockage or damage to sewers	Land/waterway contamination	C 2 = M8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sewerage system maintenance</li> <li>• Sewer Jetting (high pressure cleaning of mains for repeat chokes)</li> <li>• Spare capacity in pump wells</li> <li>• Monitoring and maintenance</li> </ul>
SCADA/Communication failure	Land/waterway contamination	A 2 = L4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SCADA testing and alarming</li> <li>• Monitoring of SCADA signal issues</li> </ul>
External person hitting sewers when excavating	Land/waterway contamination	C 2 = M8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide approximate location of underground service to external persons</li> <li>• Telemetry designed to pick up a change in inflows (for example excessive pumping hours)</li> <li>• Vacuum trucks (for clean-up)</li> <li>• Portable pumps (for clean-up)</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of design plans by Council</li> </ul>
Infrastructure failure (general)	Land/waterway contamination	C 3 = M11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintenance and renewal programs</li> <li>Smoke testing and asset condition assessment aimed at reducing stormwater infiltration programmed in future years</li> <li>Sewer relining program</li> </ul>
Infrastructure failure such as: 1. Failure of Rising Main 2. Failure at Rylstone STP site 3. Sewer Pump Station failure	Land/waterway contamination	C 3 = M11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Condition assessment of rising main between STP and SPS (scheduled for 21-22)</li> <li>Document "Contingencies –Rylstone and Kandos STP, Main and SPS" has list of critical stock items and their location (document in K:\Operations\Services\2. SEWER\Operational)</li> </ul>
Mechanical breakdown/dual pump failure	Land/waterway contamination	B 2 = L5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Telemetry monitoring</li> <li>Maintenance and inspection programs</li> <li>Spare capacity in pump wells</li> <li>vacuum truck</li> <li>Monitoring and maintenance</li> </ul>
	Impact	Risk Rating*	Pre-emptive actions
Excessive flow at STP	Land/waterway contamination	B 2 = L5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sewerage system maintenance and rehabilitation to reduce infiltration and inflows</li> <li>Spare capacity in pump wells</li> <li>Monitoring and maintenance</li> <li>SCADA alarm</li> </ul>



## Chemical Spills

	Impact	Risk Rating*	Pre-emptive actions
Chemical spill due to storage failure	Land contamination, possibly enter a waterway	B 2 = L5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bunding</li> </ul>
Chemical spill during delivery	Land contamination, possibly enter a waterway	B 2 = L5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PPE</li> <li>Bund</li> </ul>
Chemical spill due to damage to chemical system	Land/waterway contamination	C 1 = L2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bund</li> <li>Shut off valves</li> </ul>
Chemical spill due to vandalism	Land/waterway contamination	B 2 = L5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Security fences</li> </ul>
Chemical spill due to Bund failure	Land/waterway contamination	B 2 = L5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bund inspections</li> <li>Maintenance and renewal</li> </ul>
Chemical truck incident outside of bunded area	Land/waterway contamination	C 2 = M8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operator always on-site during deliveries.</li> </ul>
Storage of chemicals	Toxic effect on human, flammability, Land/waterway contamination	C 2 = M8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bund</li> <li>SDS</li> </ul>

## Fire (bushfire)

	Impact	Risk Rating*	Pre-emptive actions
Fire destroying pump station	Land/waterway contamination	C 3 = M11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vegetation management</li> <li>Fire extinguishers</li> <li>SCADA monitoring</li> </ul>
Fire destroying part of or all of STP infrastructure	Land/waterway contamination	B 4 = M12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vegetation management</li> <li>Fire extinguishers</li> </ul>

\* MWRC Risk Matrix WHS302 used to evaluate risk rating (see Appendix B)

## Inventory of pollutants

Provide an inventory of potential pollutants on the premises or used in carrying out the activity to which the licence relates:

Location/Tank	Max. quantity	Contents	Comments
Shed	20 L	Unleaded Petrol	
Shed	400kg	Limestone	
Shed	500 Kg	Sodium Carbonate	
Shed	100 kg	Citric acid	
Shed	40 kg	Granular chlorine	
Near dosing system	1000L	10-30% Sodium Hypochlorite Solution	
Near dosing system	1000 L	Aluminium Sulphate	

## Safety equipment

Safety Equipment/Process	Location
Alarms via SCADA when issues with processes	Can be remotely monitored
Internal sampling and testing	Rylstone STP laboratory
External Sampling and testing	Contracted to ALS Mudgee
Safety Data Sheet (SDS)	in Chemwatch plus hard copy on site
Gas meter (confined space)	In W&S Process Coordinator office (Depot road Mudgee)
PPE including gloves and safety glasses	at STP and in trucks
Hand railing	at various locations as appropriate
Fire extinguishers	at STP and SPS
Emergency alert/evacuation warning system	at STP
Bund to contain chemical spills	at STP
Spill containment kits (including sandbags, silt trap)	At Depot shed and stores as appropriate
Witches hats, star pickets and tape to isolate spill area	

## Communicating with neighbours and the local community

Mid-Western Regional Council will attempt to provide early warning to directly affected premises. Depending on the severity of the incident and the likelihood of impact on the community, a range of communications methods can be deployed during and after an incident. These include:

- Site visits/door knocking
- Phone calls
- SMS messages
- Emails (external and internal)
- Social media, website updates
- Media alerts
- Letter drop
- Warning signs
- Depending on the incident; WaterNSW has an early warning system to alert Water Licence Holders. WaterNSW can be contacted and request made for them to send an alert

Depending on the nature of the incident, MWRC will liaise with NSW Health and DPIE to ensure best advice is given to the community. The advice will be given to the community either by phone call, email, SMS messages if individuals are directly affected; or by media alerts and social media post for advice to the general community. Community will be regularly updated by the same mediums as the situation evolves.

Depending on the incidents, specific warning signs may be erected near incident sites or near affected area.

## Minimising harm to persons on the premises

The following are in place to minimise the risk of harm to any persons who are on the premises or who are present where the scheduled activity is being carried out:

- Operators are trained and qualified to undertake the work
- Operators in training are actively supervised by qualified operators
- Contractors have completed MWRC induction and site induction/ risk assessment
- Visitors are to sign in and out and visitors are accompanied by MWRC staff
- PPE are supplied and kept in good condition
- Gas meter are available to operators

## Maps

Maps are presented in Appendix C and includes:

- location of the premises to which the licence relates
- surrounding area likely to be affected by a pollution incident
- location of potential pollutants on the premises

## Actions to be taken during or immediately after a pollution incident

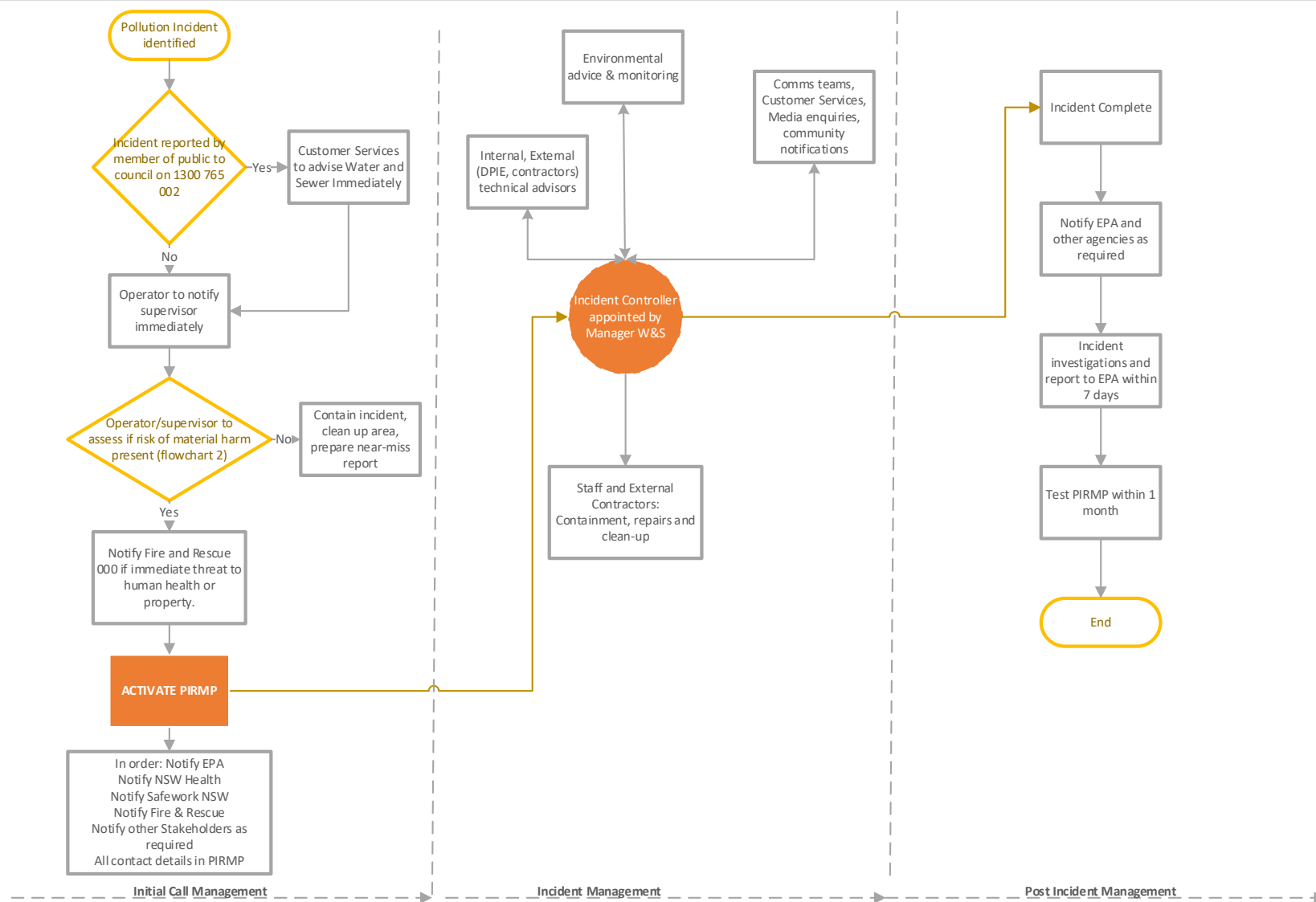


Figure 1: Pollution Incident Response Flowchart

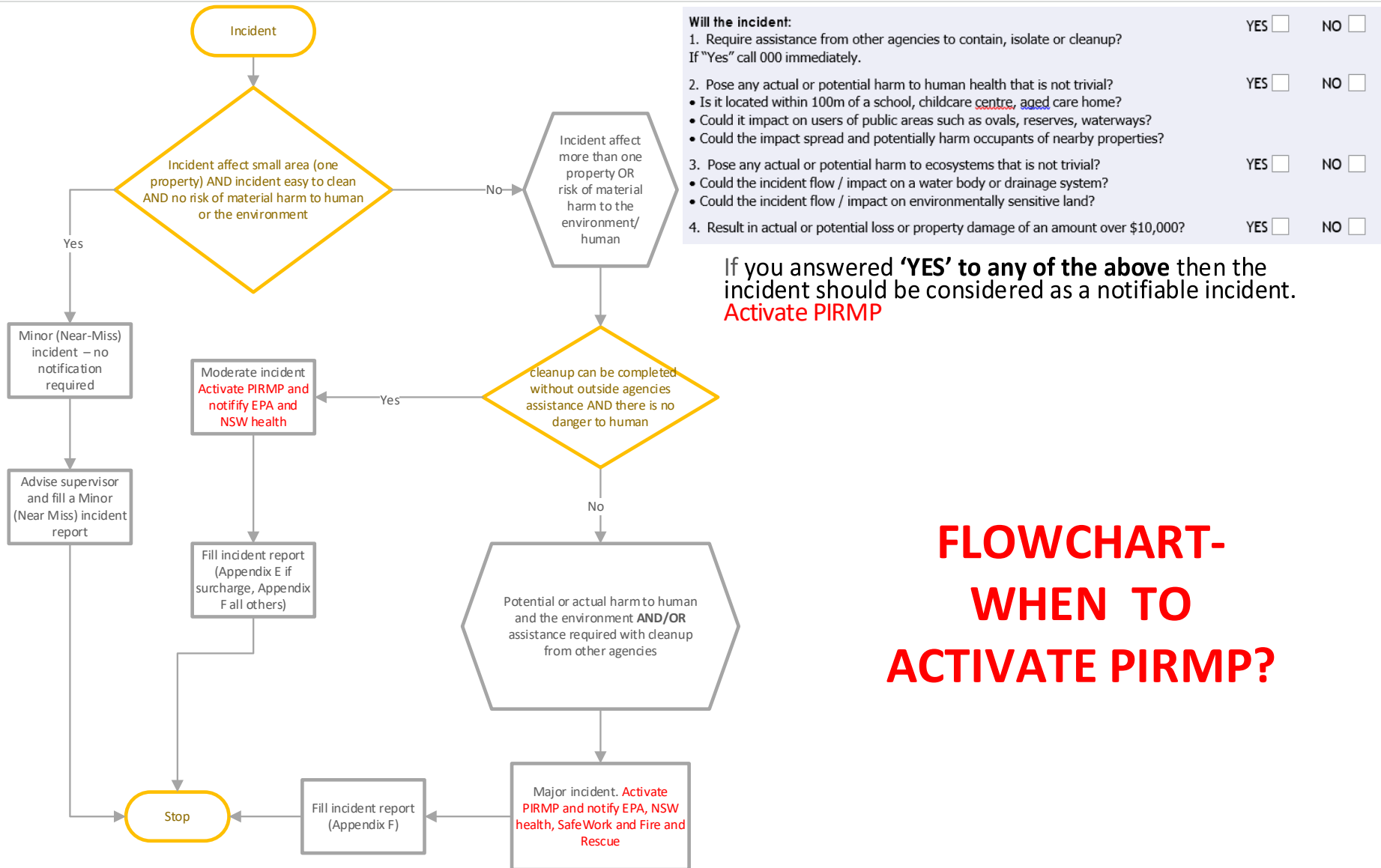


Figure 2: Incident classification flowchart

## Initial Call Management

Pollution incident is identified either by the public or by Water and Sewer Operator.

**If there is immediate threat to human health or properties, call triple zero (000 or 112 if using a mobile phone)** and follow emergency evacuation protocol as required.

Operator to advise supervisor immediately and **start isolating the site** to prevent un-authorised entry. If possible, contain the incident and prevent it from spreading without endangering staff and/or public. Remain upwind if incident involves smoke or fumes.

Operator and Supervisor will assess if the incident poses a risk of material harm to the environment as defined in section 147 of the POEO Act. Flowchart 2 can help with the assessment.

Material Harm is defined as:

*(i) involving actual or potential harm to the health or safety of human beings or to ecosystems that is not trivial, or  
(ii) resulting 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 the 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.*

If the incident is identified as **NOT** posing a risk of material harm, contain the incident, clean up the area and prepare a minor (Near Miss) incident report (Appendix D). In this instance, the PIRMP does not need to be activated.

If the incident is identified as **posing a risk** of material harm, Supervisor to advise Water and Sewer Process Coordinator and/or Manager Water and Sewer. The PIRMP must be **activated immediately**.

The following agencies **MUST** to be contacted as soon as possible:

- EPA on 131 555
- NSW Health Dubbo Office

In case of major incident (potential or actual harm to human and the environment AND/OR assistance is required with cleanup from other agencies), the following agencies **MUST ALSO** be contacted as soon as possible:

- SafeWork NSW 131 050
- Fire and Rescue Kandos 6379 4021

Further authorities may need to be contacted as required see page 4 (notification of authorities, continued)

## Incident Management

Manager Water and Sewer to immediately appoint an Incident Controller. This staff member will be in charge of managing all aspects of the response to the incident.

Incident controller, with the help of internal and external technical advisors (DPIE, external contractors), is to devise the course of action to be taken to contain, repair and clean up the affected area. Incident Controller will also allocate resources (staff, equipment etc) required to be able to deal with the incident in a timely manner. Incident Controller to consider the need to activate Gulgong WTP incident response plan (contamination in Cudgegong River)

Incident controller to contact Communication team and Customer Services to advise of incident and request assistance with communication to the community as required. Incident Controller to organise contacting Stakeholders listed in Appendix A as required. The Incident Controller will regularly review the need for communications updates.

In the event of a chemical or sewage spill, Mid-Western Regional Council staff will go to prominent and/or high use areas, erect signage and advise users. The signs are to warn users of the contamination and advise them to avoid using the area until contamination has cleared.

Incident Controller to organise sampling\* as required and to advise MWRC Environmental Officer.

Incident Controller to remind all staff involved in the incident to keep a timeline and record all actions taken during the incident.

## Post Incident

Incident Controller is satisfied that the incident is under control, repairs have been done and cleanup completed.

EPA and other agencies to be notified of incident completed as required.

Incident Controller to ensure that investigations into the incident, including root cause analysis, are done and report to EPA produced within 7 days. Appendix E can be used to report a sewage spill or overflow. Appendix F can be used as the basis for reporting any incident

PIRMP to be tested within 1 month of incident and amended as required

\* Note: To facilitate sampling in case of an environmental incident, PIRMP sampling boxes have been made. The PIRMP boxes include 3 lots of bottles (upstream, at site and downstream), sampling SOP, Chain of Custody and some spare bottles. PIRMP Boxes are at Rylstone STP and Mudgee Operations Depot. Sampling poles are also available at these locations.



## Staff training

Training in relation to the PIRMP will have three forms:

- for new members of staff at the premises, the specific induction for the premises will include details of the PIRMP,
- refresher training undertaken as part of the annual testing of PIRMP, and
- as deemed necessary, particularly after an incident that required implementation of the PIRMP

PIRMP will be tested yearly as a training exercise. This training exercise will involve all Water and Sewer staff that could potentially be involved in an actual incident.

A realistic scenario will be presented to staff who will need to highlight all steps that will be taken to:

Activate the PIRMP

Contain the incident

Report the incident

Advise the community (if scenario requires)

Clean up and close the incident

## Testing and updating of the PIRMP

### PIRMP testing details

Date tested	Tested by (to include the names of all people involved in testing)	Details of test	Finding of test, including issues identified	Next scheduled testing date (must be within 12 months from current test)
09/03/2022	W & S Process Coordinator Team Leader Construction Water Quality Officer Water and Sewer Networks Coordinator Operators	Desktop review of PIRMP	Improved communication	March 2023

26/10/2021	W & S Process Coordinator Water Quality Officer Operators	Two scenarios were presented (one requiring PIRMP activation and one not requiring PIRMP activation) and tested	All aware of changes in the PIRMP	October 2022
1/10/2020	W & S Process Coordinator Reticulation Team Leader Water Quality Officer Water and Sewer Networks Coordinator Operators	Scenario		October 2021

#### PIRMP update details

Date update occurred	Reason for update (e.g. address issues identified in testing, contact details/personnel have changed)	Details of updates (nature of changes to PIRMP)	Date the updated version uploaded to website (if applicable)	Date of completion
March 21	PIRMP Review	Contact details amended	March 21	March 21
December 21	PIRMP review for MSTP	Contact details and flowchart amended	December 21	
September 21	Yearly review	Flowcharts amended, chemical list amended, stakeholder list amended, maps amended. PIRMP document transferred into EPA template	28/10/2021	
July 2020	Yearly review		August 2020	

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February 2019

Yearly Review

February 2019

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## Appendix B: MWRC Risk Matrix

 <b>MID-WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL</b>						<b>RISK MATRIX</b>					REF: WHS302 REV: 1.0
						<b>LIKELIHOOD</b>					
						<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	
						Rare	Unlikely	Possible	Likely	Almost Certain	
						Requires unusual chain of events	Not expected to occur	May Occur	Will occur occasionally	Expected to occur	
<b>POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCE</b>											
<b>No.</b>	<b>Key Word</b>	<b>Health &amp; Safety</b>	<b>Environmental</b>	<b>Financial</b>	<b>Public Image</b>						
<b>5</b>	<b>Catastrophic</b>	Fatality or work related fatal disease	Detrimental impact to environment or community. High level prosecution.	Greater than \$500,000	International media coverage	Moderate 13	High 19	Critical 22	Critical 24	Critical 25	
<b>4</b>	<b>Severe</b>	Serious Permanent injury or illness	Long term negative impact. Low level prosecution.	No more than \$500,000	National media coverage	Moderate 10	Moderate 12	High 18	Critical 21	Critical 23	
<b>3</b>	<b>Serious</b>	Lost time injury or illness	Serious but reversible impact Media enquiry.	No more than \$100,000	State media coverage	Low 6	Moderate 9	Moderate 11	High 17	Critical 20	
<b>2</b>	<b>Significant</b>	Medically treated injury or illness	On-site incident promptly contained requiring external clean up aid.	No more than \$25,000	Local media coverage.	Low 4	Low 5	Moderate 8	High 15	High 16	
<b>1</b>	<b>Minor</b>	First Aid treated injury or illness	On-site incident immediately contained & cleaned up.	No more than \$5,000	Public complaint.	Low 1	Low 2	Low 3	Moderate 7	High 14	
<b>STATUS</b>		<b>ACTION REQUIRED</b>				<b>NOTIFY</b>			<b>MONITOR</b>		
<b>Critical</b>		Do not commence activity. Immediate senior management action required.				General Manager (Notified by Group Mgr)			N.A.		
<b>High</b>		Immediate action required to reduce risk. Authorisation required before commencing activity.				Group Manager (Notified by Operational Mgr)			Weekly		
<b>Moderate</b>		Risk reduction required to as low as reasonable practicable before commencing task				Operational Manager			Monthly		
<b>Low</b>		Follow routine procedures and monitor risk.				Team Leader			Annually		







## Rylstone Sewerage System



