

PIRMP- Mudgee **Wastewater Treatment Plant and Sewerage System** 



# POLLUTION INCIDENT RESPONSE MANAGEMENT PLAN (PIRMP) LICENCE NUMBER: 5230

Approved by: Manager Water and Sewer Date: 02/05/2025

#### PURPOSE:

Mid-Western Regional Council holds an Environment Protection Licence with the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) for Mudgee 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	
Name of licensee:	Mid-Western regional Council
EPL number:	5230
Premises name and address:	Mudgee Wastewater treatment Plant, 33 Blain Road Carleon, 2850 NSW
Website address:	http://www.midwestern.nsw.gov.au/
Scheduled activity/activities on EPL:	Sewage treatment
Fee-based activity/activities on EPL:	Sewage Treatment processing by small plant
PIRMP activation	Position or title: Water and Sewer Process Coordinator
The delivation	Business hours contact number/s: 1300 765 002
	After hours contact number/s: 1300 765 002
	Alternative contact
	Position or title: Manager Water and Sewer
	Business hours contact number/s: 1300 765 002
	After hours contact number/s: 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

Fire & Rescue NSW	Contact number/s:	000 Emergency (112 mobile phones) 1300 729 579 (generic) 6372 6772 Mudgee Fire & Rescue
EPA (written report to be provided within 7 days)	Contact number/s:	131 555
NSW Health	Relevant Area Health Service: Contact number/s:  After hours	Dubbo Office 6809 8979 0407 551 548 / 0418 66 397
SafeWork NSW	Contact number/s:	131 050
Notification of relevant authorities, continued		
See below for persons and/or authorities that also may need to material harm to the environment.	be notified in the case of a pollution incident th	at causes or threatens to cause
·	be notified in the case of a pollution incident the	nat causes or threatens to cause  1300 662 077
material harm to the environment.		
material harm to the environment.	Contact number/s:	1300 662 077
material harm to the environment.  WaterNSW	Contact number/s: Emergency reporting – 24h (spills etc)	1300 662 077 1800 061 069



#### Notification of neighbours and the local community

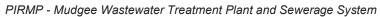
Mid-Western Regional Council will attempt to provide early warning to directly affected premises. Depending on the severity of the incident and the likelihood of impact on the community, a range of communications methods can be deployed during and after an incident. These include:

- Site visits/door knocking
- Phone calls
- SMS messages
- Emails (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> <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> <li>Lightning protection</li> <li>Backup generators at some SPS</li> <li>Vegetation management to prevent damage to infrastructure in case of storm</li> <li>Portable pumps</li> </ul>



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			SCADA alarms
	Impact	Risk Rating*	Pre-emptive actions
Blockage or damage to sewers	Land/waterway contamination	C 2 = M8	<ul> <li>Sewerage system maintenance</li> <li>Sewer Jetting program (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><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> <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> <li>Review of design plans by Council</li> </ul>
Infrastructure failure (general)	Land/waterway contamination	C 3 = M11	<ul> <li>Maintenance and renewal programs</li> <li>Smoke testing program and asset condition assessment aimed at reducing stormwater infiltration</li> <li>Sewer relining program</li> </ul>
Infrastructure failure such as: 1. Failure of Putta Bucca Rising Main 2. Failure at Mudgee STP site 3. Sewer Pump Station failure	Land/waterway contamination	C 3 = M11	<ul> <li>Condition assessment of rising main between Putta Bucca and Mudgee STP</li> <li>Document "Contingencies - Mudgee STP, Putta Bucca Rising Main and SPS" has details for setting up a temporary pump station at STP, list of critical stock items and their location as well as Epump/generator setup details for sewer pump station</li> </ul>

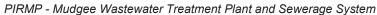




Mechanical breakdown/dual pump failure	Land/waterway contamination	B 2 = L5	<ul> <li>Telemetry monitoring</li> <li>Maintenance and inspection programs</li> </ul>
	Impact	Risk Rating*	Pre-emptive actions
			<ul><li>Spare capacity in pump wells</li><li>vacuum truck</li><li>Monitoring and maintenance</li></ul>
Excessive flow at STP	Land/waterway contamination	B 2 = L5	<ul> <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>Overflow/storm dam at STP</li> <li>SCADA alarm</li> </ul>

## **Chemical Spills**

	Impact	Risk Rating*	Pre-emptive actions
Chemical spill due to	Land contamination, possibly	B 2 = L5	Bunding
Tank/storage failure	enter a waterway		<ul> <li>Inspection and maintenance of tanks</li> </ul>
Chemical spill during delivery	Land contamination, possibly	B 2 = L5	• PPE
	enter a waterway		Spill kit at STP and in fuel trucks
			Bund
Chemical spill due to damage to	Land/waterway contamination	C 1 = L2	Bund
chemical system			Alarms
			Shut off valves
Chemical spill due to vandalism	Land/waterway contamination	B 2 = L5	Security fences
Chemical spill due to Bund failure	Land/waterway contamination	B 2 = L5	Bund inspections
			Maintenance and renewal
Chemical truck incident outside of bunded area	Land/waterway contamination	C 2 = M8	Only use transport companies with evidence of driver licensing and training





			•	Operator always on-site during deliveries. Chain of Responsibility (CoR) – supervision of connection
Storage of chemicals	Toxic effect on human, flammability, Land/waterway contamination	C 2 = M8	•	Spill kit and bund SDS

#### Fire (bushfire, fire at landfill)

	Impact	Risk Rating*	Pre-emptive actions
Fire destroying pump station	Land/waterway contamination	C 3 = M11	<ul><li>Vegetation management</li><li>Fire extinguishers</li><li>Fire alarm</li><li>SCADA monitoring</li></ul>
Fire destroying part of or all of STP infrastructure	Land/waterway contamination	B 4 = M12	<ul><li>Vegetation management</li><li>Fire extinguishers</li><li>Fire alarms</li><li>SCADA Monitoring</li></ul>
Fire at Landfill – no access to STP	Land/waterway contamination	B 3 = M9	SCADA monitoring and operation

<sup>\*</sup> MWRC Risk Matrix WHS302 used to evaluate risk rating (see Appendix A)

#### **Inventory of pollutants**

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

Identify the maximum quantity of any pollutant/s likely to be stored or held at particular locations (including underground tanks) at or on the premises to which the licence relates.

Example

Location/Tank	Max. quantity	Contents	Comments
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# PIRMP - Mudgee Wastewater Treatment Plant and Sewerage System

Workshop	30 L	Diesel
Workshop	60 L	Unleaded Petrol
Workshop	5 L	2 stroke oil
Workshop	300 L	Oil (Shell, Valvoline, Castrol)
Workshop	20 L	Glyphosate (Roundup)
Workshop	8 L	Weed'n'Feed
Workshop	40 L	Disinfectant – All Pro Premium Lemon X (2% W/V quaternary Ammonium Compound)
Workshop	100 kg	Sodium Hydrogen Carbonate (soda ash)
Workshop	350 kg	Hydrated Lime
Workshop	250 kg	Renderoc HB70
Aluminium Sulphate Tank	20,000 L	Aluminium Sulphate
Near UV system	1250 kg	Zetag 8147 (polyacrylamide and adipic acid)
Scrubber stack		Carbon granules
Pump stations	Fuel in generators only	



Safety equipment	
Safety Equipment/Process	Location
Alarms via SCADA when issues with processes	Can be remotely monitored
Internal sampling and testing	Mudgee 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
Life jacket, safety buoy, hand railing, harness	at various locations as appropriate
Fire extinguishers and fire hoses	at STP and SPS
Safety Showers and eye wash stations	at STP
Emergency Evacuation Plan	at STP
Emergency alert/evacuation warning system	at STP
Bund to contain chemical spills	at STP Workshop and chemical tanks
Spill containment kits (including sandbags, silt trap)	At Depot shed and stores as appropriate
Witches hats, star pickets and tape to isolate spill area	
Backup generator/ E pump	Pump Stations: Putta Bucca, Racecourse, Mudgee East and Industrial



#### 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 B 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
- Stormwater drainage site plan



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

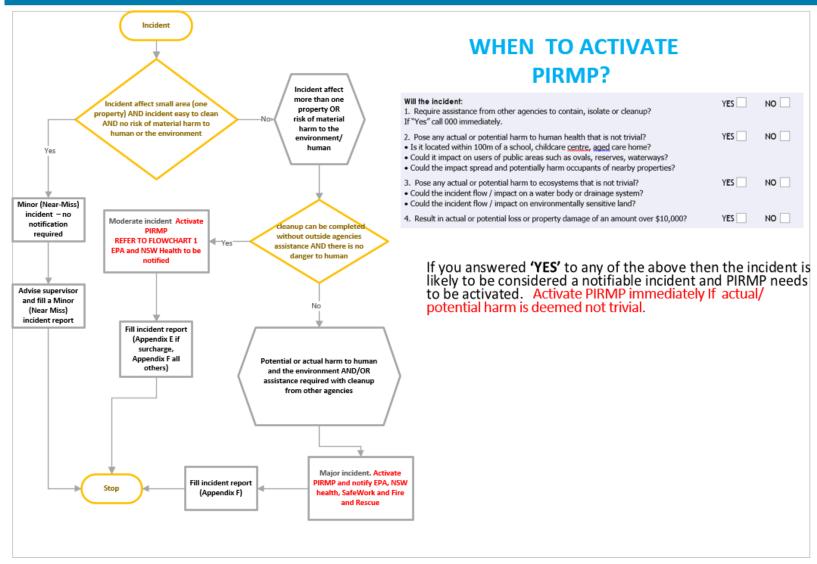


Figure 1: Incident classification flowchart



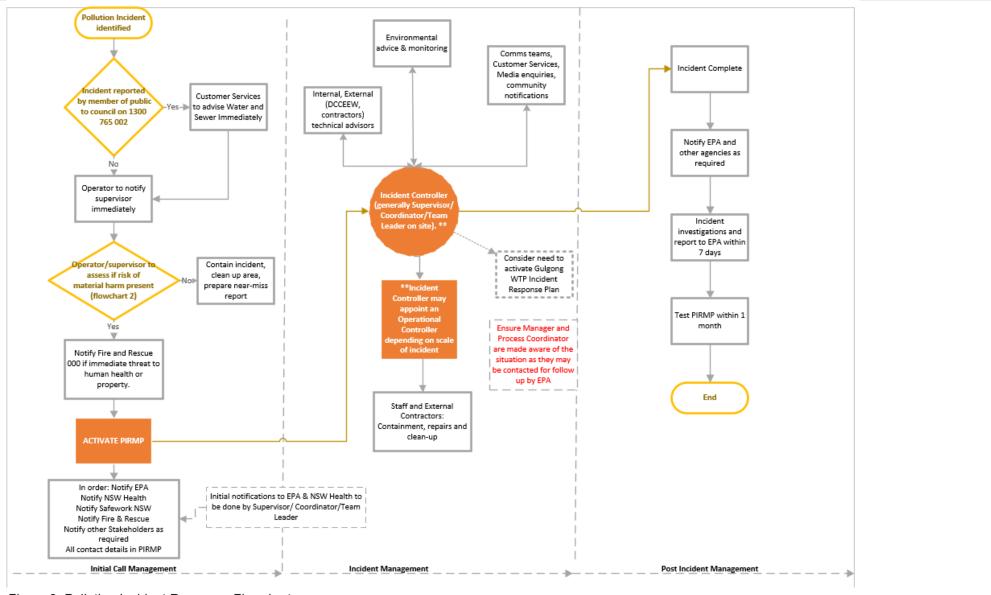


Figure 2: Pollution Incident Response Flowchart



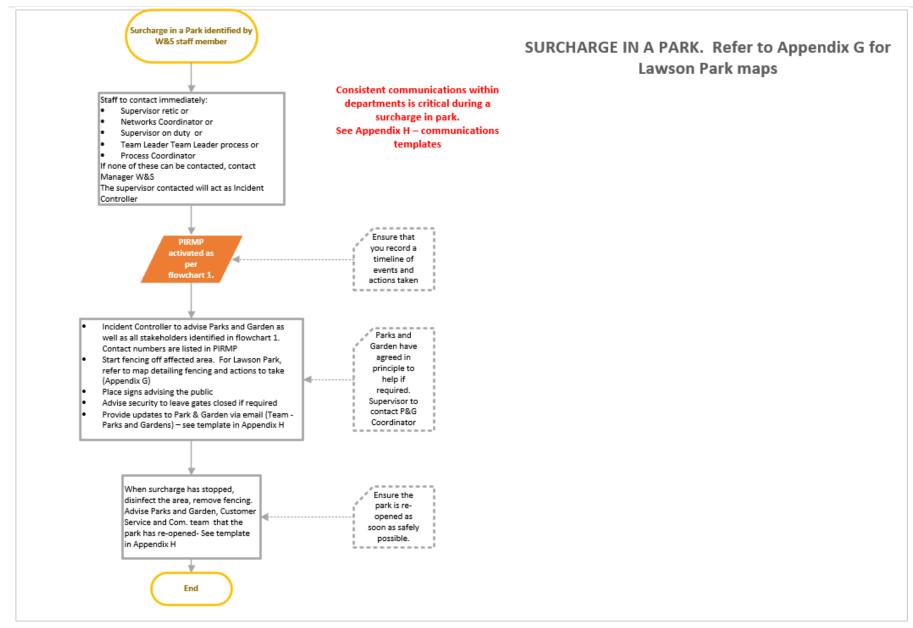


Figure 3: Surcharge in a Park - Flowchart



# **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 1 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 ensure Water and Sewer Process Coordinator and Manager Water and Sewer are advised of the situation. The PIRMP must be **activated immediately**.

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

- EPA on 131 555
- NSW Health Dubbo Office (Mark Nave 6809 8977, 0407 551 548)

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 Mudgee 6372 6772

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



# **Incident Management**

Incident Controller will take charge of the incident (generally Coordinator/Supervisor/Team Leader first on site). This staff member will be in charge of managing all aspects of the response to the incident. Depending on the scale of the incident, an Operation Controller can be appointed by the Incident Controller. The Operation Controller will be in charge of all technical aspects of the incident while the Incident Controller will be liaising with external agencies and internal communications, logistic and planning.

Incident and/or Operation Controller, with the help of internal and external technical advisors (DCCEEW, external contractors) if required, 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 as required 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 or Operation 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 Mudgee STP, Putta Bucca SPS and Mudgee Operations depot.



#### 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

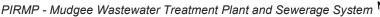
Advise the community (if scenario requires)

Clean up and close the incident

#### Testing and updating of the PIRMP

#### PIRMP testing details

Date tested	Tested by	Details of test	Finding of test, including issues identified	Next scheduled testing date (must be within 12 months from current test)
3/10/2024	Operators, Water Quality, Manager, Coordinators	Debrief and review of PIRMP following incident 09/09/2024		09/2025
30/07/2024	Operators, Team Leaders, Electrician, Maintenance, Engineers, Coordinators, Water Quality, Manager, Admin, Recovery Officer, Project Officer	A sewer main has cracked or failed up stream of the Putta Bucca pump station.	incorporate low flow alarms into SCADA to alert to major main breaks Investigate options to use SMS during an emergency	July 2025



	PIR	RMP - Mudgee Wastewater Treatment Plant a	nd Sewerage System Mid Western	
27/07/2023	Manager, Coordinators, Water Quality Scientist, Team Leaders, Operators, Admin Officer	Scenario: The dewatering unit at Mudgee STP is not working well and the sludge going in the truck is extremely wet. When the operator drives the truck to dispose of the sludge in the landfill, sludge is dripping all over the road and weighbridge.	Audit of spill kit required Check aquabags/sand bags requirements	July 2024
1/09/2022	W&S Process Coordinator, Parks and Gardens Coordinator Water Quality Scientist, Team Leader, Operators, Admin Officer	Debrief and desktop review of PIRMP following Lawson Park Surcharge	Amended Contact details and flowcharts	September 2023
27/07/2022	W&S Process Coordinator, W&S Network Coordinator Water Quality Scientist, Team Leader, Operators, Admin Officer	Debrief and desktop review of PIRMP following Lawson Park Surcharge	no changes required	July 2023
26/05/2022	W&S Process Coordinator, Water Quality Scientist, Team Leader, Operators	Debrief and desktop review of PIRMP following Lawson Park Surcharge	Amended Contact details	May 2023
13/04/2022	W & S Process Coordinator W&S Network Coordinator Team Leader Water Quality Scientist Operators	Desktop review of PIRMP Documentation following debriefs	Amended Contact details and flowcharts	April 2023
09/03/2022	W & S Process Coordinator W&S Network Coordinator	Desktop review of PIRMP Documentation following debriefs	Amended Contact details	March 2023



	Team Leader Water Quality Scientist Operators			
7/02/2022	W & S Process Coordinator Treatment Team Leader Water Quality Scientist Operators	Desktop review of PIRMP Documentation following debriefs	Toolbox talk to be developped	February 2023
09 and 14th December 21	Manager W&S W & S Process Coordinator Treatment Team Leader Water Quality Officer Water and Sewer Networks Coordinator Operators	Desktop review of PIRMP Documentation following debriefs	Amended flowchart Amended contact details Amended Appendix E	Dec 22
09 August 2021	Manager W&S W & S Process Coordinator Treatment Team Leader Water Quality Officer Water and Sewer Networks Coordinator Operators Project Officer	Two scenarios were presented (one requiring PIRMP activation and one not requiring PIRMP activation) and tested	All aware of changes in the PIRMP	9 August 2022
19 April 2021	Manager W&S W & S Process Coordinator Planning Engineer Treatment Team Leader Water Quality Officer Admin Officer	Desktop review of PIRMP Documentation following MSTP pipeline failure on 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Some contact details of major stakeholders out of date. Include all identified downstream stakeholders.  Chemical list to be updated Flowchart to be reviewed Maps to be reviewed and be more detailed. Also to include Pump stations	19 April 2022



Review the whole document and transfer to template (Appendix B: PIRMP Template)

#### **PIRMP** update details

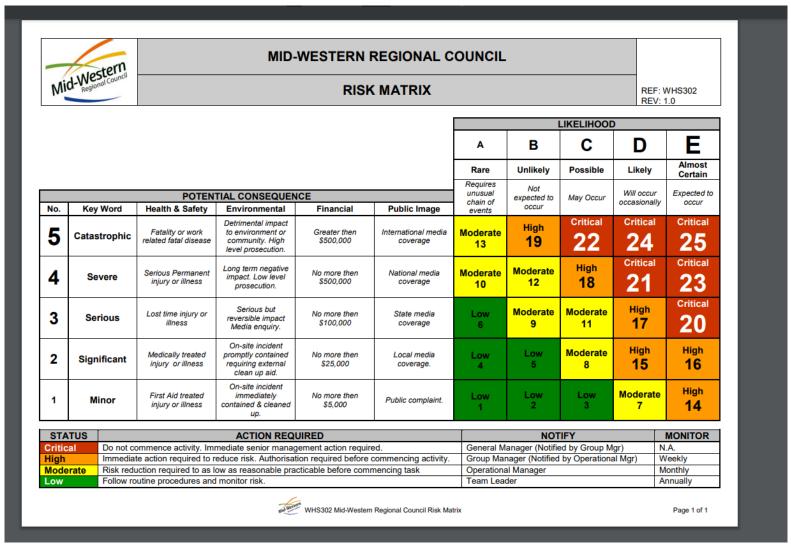
Date update occurred	Reason for update (e.g. address issues identified in testing, contact details/personnel have changed)	Details of updates (nature of changes to PIRMP)	Date the updated version uploaded to website (if applicable)	Date of completion
March 2025	Annual review	Contact details checked, List of chemicals updated, Site plan updated		
July 2024	Contact details updated	changes in contact details	July 2024	July 2024



1/12/2023	Contact details updated	DPE contact. Downstream Stakeholders Flow diagrams	Dec 2023	Dec 2023
21/09/2022	Items identified during PIRMP debriefs	Flowchart amended, Contact details amended, Communication Appendix added	September 2022	September 2022
April 2022	Items identified during PIRMP Testing	Contact details amended	May 2022	
December 21	Items identified during PIRMP testing of 9 <sup>th</sup> and 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Process Coordinator contact details flowchart amended	December 21	17/12/2021
September 21	DPIE contact name and number changed	DPIE contact	Not applicable	21/09/2021
July 21	Outdated items identified during the PIRMP testing of 19 April 2021	Flowcharts amended, chemical list amended, stakeholder list amended, maps amended. PIRMP document transferred into EPA template	12 August 2021	27/07/2021
July 2020	Yearly review		August 2020	
February 2019	Yearly Review		February 2019	



#### **Appendix A: MWRC Risk Matrix**





**Appendix B: Maps of STP and Sewerage System** 

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Mudgee STP is located at the back of the MWRC Waste Facility, 33 Blain Road Carleon 2850 NSW. The Waste facility has its own EPA Licence (6348) and associated PIRMP.

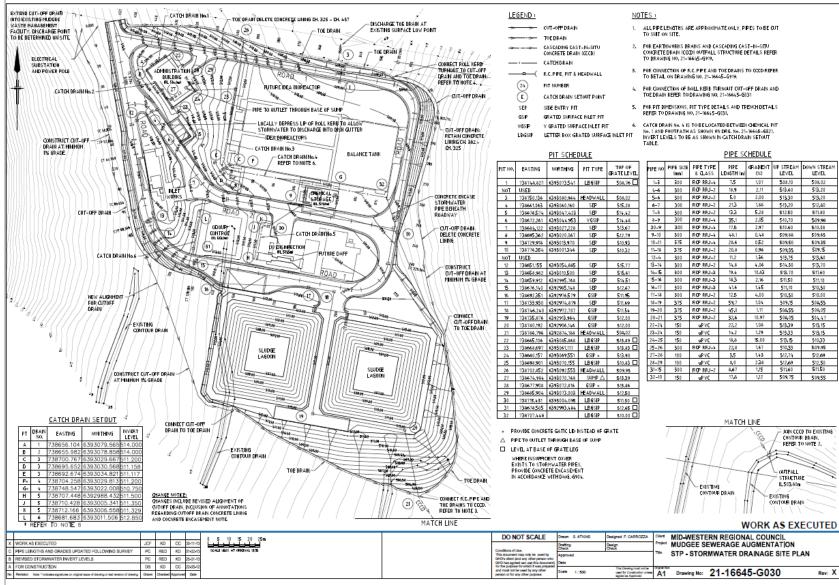








#### **MSTP Stormwater Drainage Site Plan**





# Mudgee Sewerage System

