



# Warrumbungle Shire Council

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**Pollution Incident Response Management Plan for the  
Coonabarabran Sewerage Treatment System**

**EPA LICENCE NO. 1744**

April 2014  
Doc ID: 114082

(Revised May 2020)



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| VERSION      | ISSUE DATE    | DESCRIPTION  |
|--------------|---------------|--|
| 1.0          | April 2014    | Final version  |
| 2.0          | February 2015 | Amendments   |
| 3.0 (114082) | March 2020    | Major review, updates and amendments (Jacinta Green) |
| 3.1          | May 2020      | Minor updates  |

#### Approval record

| Version Number | Approved By (Signature) | Name and Title | Date |
|----------------|-------------------------|----------------|------|
| 3.0            |                         |                |      |

#### PIRMP update details

| Please note that the following updates have been made to this document. |                |        |                   |   |                                |                                      |
|---|----------------|--------|-------------------|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Date updated  | Version Number | Page/s | Reason for update | Description   | Date updates loaded to website | Updated by                           |
| February 2015   | 2.0            | 24     |                   | Attachment 6: Operational Procedure checklist   |                                |                                      |
| February 2015   | 2.0            | 25     |                   | Attachment 7: Emergency Procedure   |                                |                                      |
| March 2020  | 3.0            |        | Major plan review | Updated format to follow latest guidelines.<br>Inserted the following new sections as indicated by the latest guidelines.<br>Updated contact details.<br>Updated chemical and safety equipment inventories. |                                | Jacinta Green<br>Jacintagreen.com.au |

|          |     |  |  |   |  |               |
|----------|-----|--|--|---|--|---------------|
| May 2020 | 3.1 |  |  | Updating neighbour contacts.<br>Updated flow chart. |  | Jacinta Green |
|----------|-----|--|--|---|--|---------------|

### Testing record

It is a legal requirement to test the plan every 12 months and within 1 month of any pollution incident.

| Date Tested   | Test type (Yearly/Post Incident) | Tested by     | Details of Test        | Findings of test   |
|---------------|----------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|--|
| 24 March 2020 | Yearly                           | Jacinta Green | Desktop and Site Audit | Staff Training to be undertaken for all staff by end May   |
|               |                                  |               |                        | Latest PIRMP to be loaded to Website   |
|               |                                  |               |                        | Updated PIRMP to be placed in site office  |
|               |                                  |               |                        | Fire Extinguisher in Meal room needs compliance check – Treatment Supervisor has been informed.  |
|               |                                  |               |                        | Need for onsite induction process and register for visitors has been discussed with WHS Officer. |

### Next test due

|                   |
|-------------------|
| <b>March 2021</b> |
|-------------------|

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## **1 Purpose of this plan.**

Warrumbungle Shire Council holds an Environment Protection Licence with the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) for Coonabarabran Sewerage Treatment Works. As per the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (the POEO Act), the holder of an Environment Protection Licence must prepare, keep, test and implement a pollution incident response management plan (PIRMP) that complies with Part 5.7A of the POEO Act in relation to the activity to which the licence relates.

If a pollution incident occurs in the course of an activity causing or threatening material harm to the environment (within the meaning of section 147 of the POEO Act), the person carrying on the activity must immediately implement this plan in relation to the activity required by Part 5.7A of the POEO Act.

A written copy of this plan must be kept at Coonabarabran Sewage Treatment System Plant and be made available on request by an authorised NSW EPA Officer and to any person who is responsible for implementing this plan.

The plan is also available for download from [www.warrumbungle.nsw.gov.au](http://www.warrumbungle.nsw.gov.au)

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.

This plan is intended to inform field staff and provides a concise summary of the requirements for responding to and reporting potential and actual pollution incidents in the Coonabarabran Sewerage Treatment System including the Sewage Treatment Plant, Pump Station and Reticulation Pipework.

Council will provide regular training to ensure staff are familiar with how to respond to pollution incidents. Management staff are to refer to the Pollution Incident Response Management Plan Supporting Statement for further detail in relation to Pollution Incidents

## 2 Environment Protection Licence (EPL) Details

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Name of licensee                      | Warrumbungle Shire Council   |
| ABN                                   | 63 348 671 239   |
| EPL number                            | 1744   |
| Premises name and address             | Coonabarabran Sewage Treatment Works<br>Industrial Estate Coonabarabran NSW 2357   |
| Contact                               | Cornelia Wiebels<br>Manager, Warrumbungle Water<br>Business Hours 02 6378 5000<br>After Hours 02 6378 2000<br><a href="mailto:Cornelia.Wiebels@warrumbungle.nsw.gov.au">Cornelia.Wiebels@warrumbungle.nsw.gov.au</a><br><a href="http://www.warrumbungle.nsw.gov.au">www.warrumbungle.nsw.gov.au</a> |
| Scheduled activity/activities on EPL: | Sewage Treatment   |
| Fee based activity/activities on EPL: | Sewage treatment processing by small plants<br>> 219-1000 ML discharged  |

## 3 Pollution incident – Person/s responsible

Identify the person/s through whom all communications are to be made:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| PIRMP activation                        | Site Supervisor<br>Coonabarabran Sewerage Treatment<br>Works<br>Business Hours 02 6378 5000<br>After Hours 02 6378 2000  |
| Notifying relevant authorities          | Technical Officer -<br>Warrumbungle Water<br>Business Hours 02 6378 5000<br>After Hours 02 6378 2000<br><a href="mailto:Scott.Stanley@warrumbungle.nsw.gov.au">Scott.Stanley@warrumbungle.nsw.gov.au</a> |
| Managing response to pollution incident | Site Supervisor,<br>Supervisor Reticulation,<br>Supervisor Treatment Plants<br>Business Hours 02 6378 5000<br>After Hours 02 6378 2000   |

## 4 Notification of relevant authorities

Operational Staff should call 000 if the incident presents an immediate threat to human health and/or property and a combat agency is required (i.e. NSW Fire and Rescue, NSW Ambulance Service, NSW Police Force). Operational staff are to follow the escalation/on-call process, whereby the respondee (Appropriate Site-Supervisor, Manager Warrumbungle Water, or Director of Environment and Development Services), will then notify all other parties below including NSW Fire and Rescue via a local telephone number.

EPA **131 555** should be contacted as soon as possible, as depending on the severity of the pollution event may want to be on-site, or will issue directions about notification to neighbours.

Health NSW (Public Health Officer on Call (24 hours) **0418 866 397**) should also be contacted immediately if there is a risk to human health.

**Emergency Hotline Number - Fire, Police, Ambulance (24 hours) 000**

### Fire and Rescue NSW

- Fire and Rescue NSW Coonabarabran Fire Brigade **02 6842 1982**

### Environment Protection Authority (EPA)

- Emergency Hotline Number (24 hour) **131 555**
- Dubbo Regional Office **02 6883 533**

### Health NSW

- Public Health Officer on Call (24 hours) **0418 866 397**
- Dubbo Regional Office **02 6809 8979**

### SafeWork NSW

- Hotline Number **13 10 50**

### Warrumbungle Shire Council

- Warrumbungle Shire Council Environmental Services  
(24 hour Emergency Hotline Number) **02 6849 2000**
- The Manager Warrumbungle Water will notify the Director of Environment and Development Services who will determine the need for further reporting to the General Manager and Council. Depending on the severity of the pollution event Council Management will determine if press releases and/or radio announcements are required.

## **5 Notification of neighbours and the local community**

Develop any specific information that could be provided to the community, so it can minimise the risk of harm where the pollution incident causes or threatens material harm to the environment or human health, the EPA is notified in accordance with Section 3.2.2.

Once the EPA is notified, it is then for the EPA to determine whether commercial, industrial and residential neighbours of the site need to be contacted by Council and informed of the circumstances of the incident and what action is being taken in response to it. If deemed necessary, the EPA then has powers to formally direct Council to notify the neighbours of the site.

Irrespective of whether the EPA directs Council to notify neighbours and depending on the circumstances of the particular pollution incident, Council may at their own discretion voluntarily choose to notify neighbours.

Council would notify neighbours by making a telephone call to every neighbouring property of the STP as detailed in Attachment 2. If neighbours are unable to be contacted by telephone a door knock will be carried out.

If appropriate a media release will be issued for publication via radio and social media channels.

In the particular case of discharge into the Castlereagh River, especially in times of low flow in the river, it may be decided to contact landowners and other parties that may be impacted. See Attached Maps in Appendix B.



## 6 Description and likelihood of hazards

| DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT  | LIKELIHOOD | IMPACT | CONTRIBUTING FACTORS   |
|--|------------|--------|--|
| Overflow in the reticulation system                                      | Medium     | High   | Prolonged heavy rain, lack of maintenance, mechanical failure                        |
| Wet weather bypass at the STP  | Low        | High   | Prolonged heavy rain, lack of maintenance, mechanical failure                        |
| Dry weather bypass at the STP  | Low        | High   | Lack of maintenance, mechanical failure  |
| Pond failure at Sewer Treatment Plant                                    | Low        | Medium | Lack of maintenance  |
| Mechanical failure at the STP results in discharge of untreated effluent | Low        | High   | Lack of maintenance or fire damage   |
| Unauthorised chemicals entering plant causing shutdown of process        | Low        | High   | Criminal acts, leaking chemicals in urban area                                       |
| Mechanical failure at the STP results in offensive odours                | Low        | Low    | Lack of maintenance or fire damage   |
| Inadequate chemical storage  | Low        | Medium | Human error, high winds could spread chemical fire                                   |
| Pipeline breakage within Sewer Treatment Plant                           | Low        | Low    | Human error during excavation, poor maintenance                                      |
| Exceed Environment Protection Licence discharge limits                   | Low        | Medium | Prolonged periods of heavy rain or mechanical failure                                |
| Acts of vandalism or target of terrorist activity                        | Low        | Medium | Increased risk when plant not attended.<br>Increased risk of fire in hot dry weather |

## 7 Pre-emptive actions to be taken and minimising harm to persons on the premises

It is a requirement of the legislation that all steps be taken to minimise the risk of pollution incidents. All staff must ensure that work is carried out in a safe manner in accordance with the WHS legislation and Council's safe work procedures.

All on site chemicals will be safely stored, and where necessary, in a bunded area.

All safety equipment including personnel protective equipment, fire extinguishers, hazmat kits etc are to be kept up to date and ready for any emergency.

All staff are, to ensure that any observed maintenance issues are reported to their supervisor for action.

It is management's responsibility to ensure all staff are fully trained in safety procedures and emergency responses including this Pollution Incident Response Management Plan. Training in relation to this Plan will be registered in the Training Register-Attachment 2.

Any persons entering the site must be wearing the appropriate PPE and inducted by a trained staff member.

Signage should be installed where appropriate.

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

Develop a detailed description of the actions to be taken immediately after a pollution incident to reduce or control any pollution. These should include as a minimum early warnings, updates and actions to be taken during and after an incident

Identify any actions to be taken in combating the pollution caused by the incident and how any clean-up and associated funding resulting from an incident will be undertaken:

## **9 Staff training**

An online training course has been developed to test relevant staff knowledge of the Pollution Incident Response Management Plan (PIRMP).

Relevant staff are required to complete the training course at least once a year. Completion of the training course by relevant staff is checked annually as part of the PIRMP testing procedures.

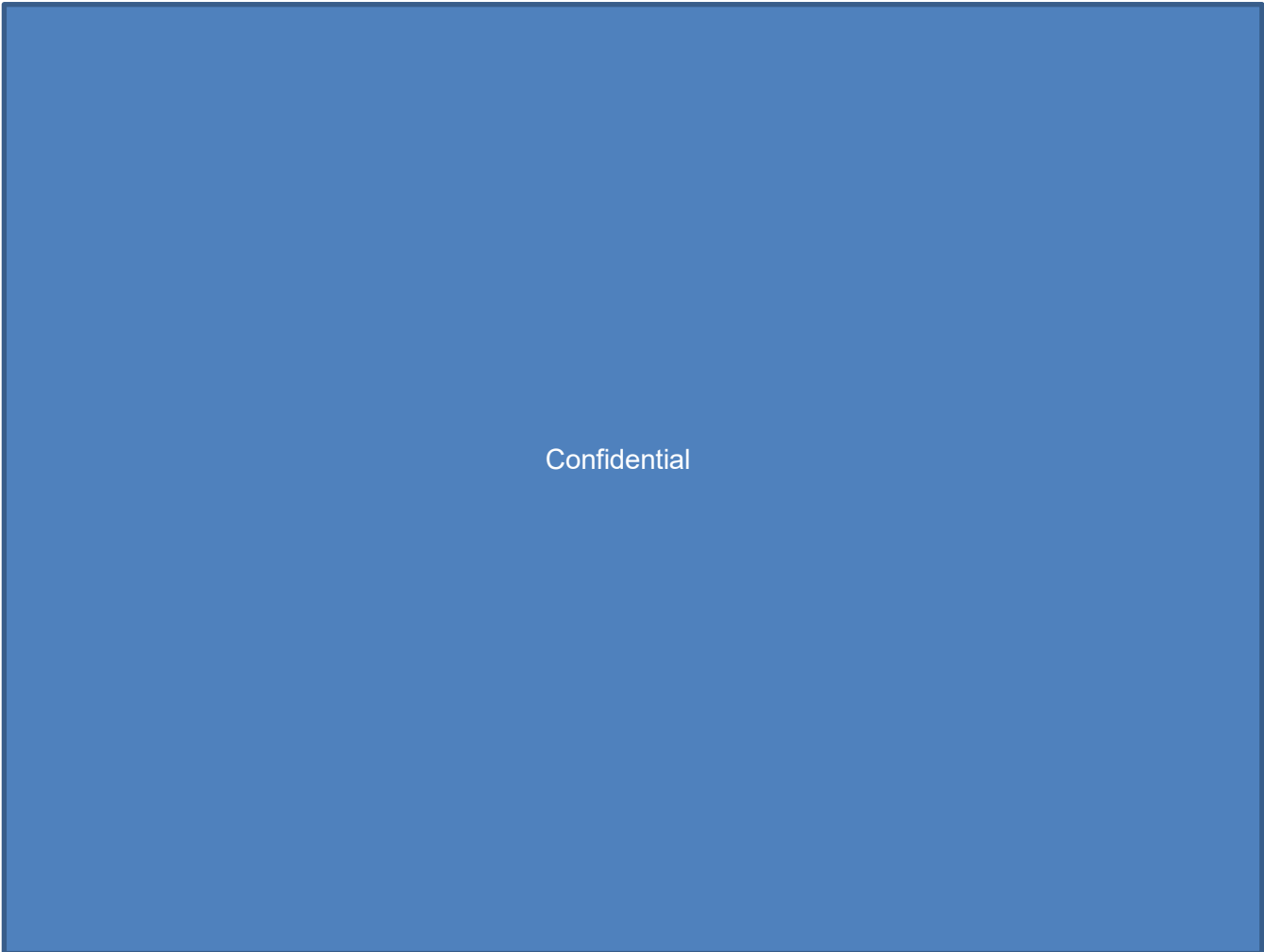
Access to the training course is through the council's on-line training program managed by the Human Resources Department of Warrumbungle Shire Council.

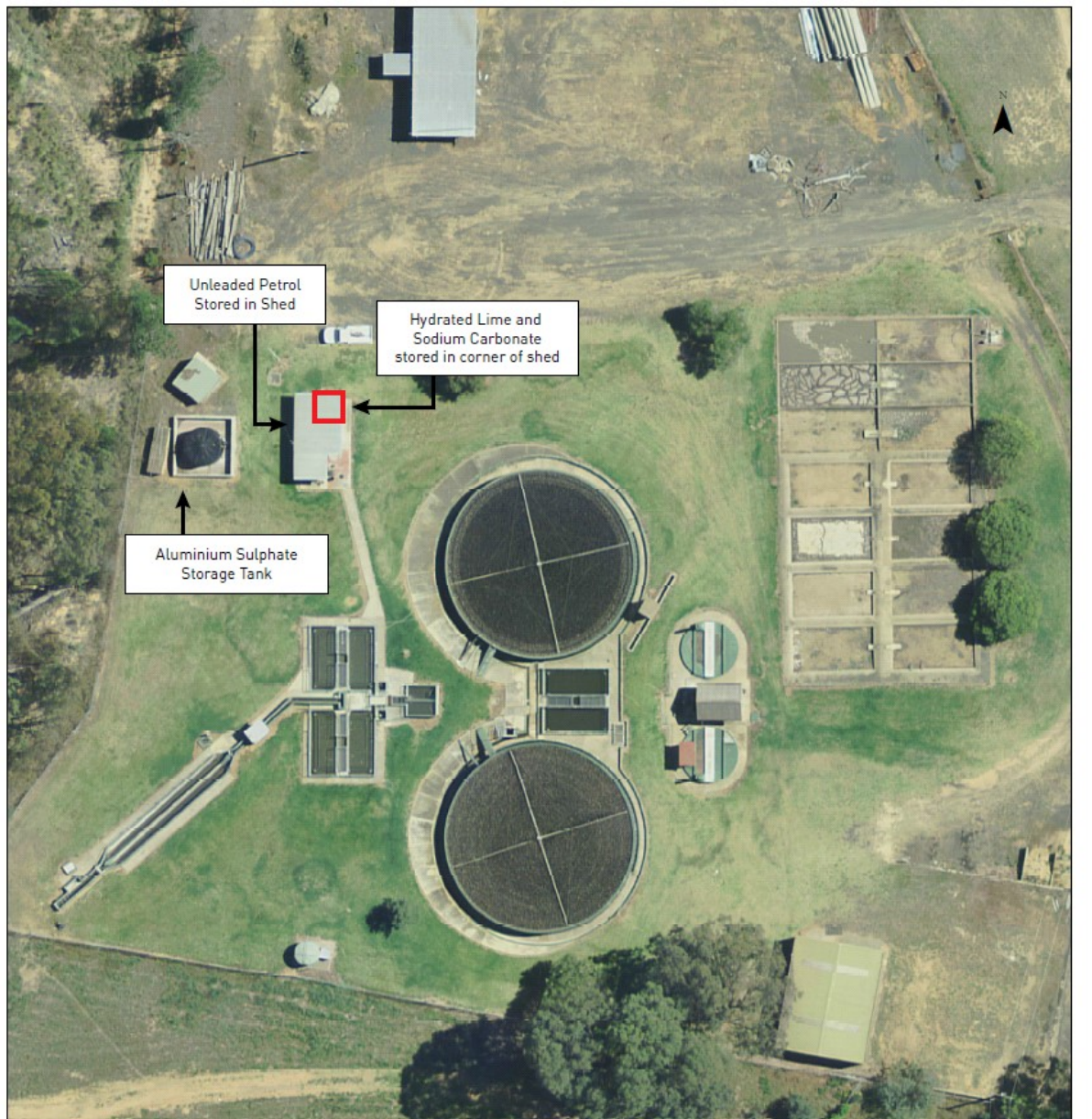
The objectives of the training program are to:

- Ensure staff are aware of whether a pollution event is considered minor or major.
- Ensure that staff know who to call when a pollution event occurs.
- Ensure Warrumbungle Shire Council meets its regulatory obligations.
- Ensure chances of pollution events impacting human health or the environment are minimised.

# ATTACHMENTS

## Attachment 1 - Maps of the Coonabarabran Sewerage System













## Attachment 2 - List of Neighbours to be Notified

Confidential



### Attachment 3 – Information to be notified

Under section 150 of the POEO Act 1997, the site supervisor is to immediately provide the information initially by phone and later by filling out the “Pollution Incident Reporting Form” in Attachment 1 of this plan.

Any information required that is not known at the time the incident is notified must be provided when it becomes known.

#### Pollution Incident Reporting form

Incident No:

Time:

Date:

Duration of Incident:

Nature of Incident:

Weather Conditions:

The Location of the Place Where Pollution is Occurring or is Likely to Occur:

The nature, the estimated quantity or volume and the concentration of any pollutants involved (if known):

The Circumstances in which the Incident Occurred, Including the Cause of the Incident (if known):

The Corrective Action Taken or Proposed to be Taken to Deal with the Incident and Any Resulting Pollution or Threatened Pollution (if known):

|  |     |    |
|--|-----|----|
|  |     |    |
|  |     |    |
|  |     |    |
|  |     |    |
| Has EPA Directed Council to Notify Neighbours?       | Yes | No |
| If not, has Council Voluntarily Notified Neighbours? | Yes | No |

|   |                    |    |
|---|--------------------|----|
| <b>Signature:</b> .....   | <b>Date:</b> ..... |    |
| Site Supervisor, Warrumbungle Shire Council                         |                    |    |
|   |                    |    |
|   |                    |    |
|   |                    |    |
| <b>Signature:</b> .....   | <b>Date:</b> ..... |    |
| Manager, Warrumbungle Water<br>Warrumbungle Shire Council           |                    |    |
|   |                    |    |
| Has Council Been Notified?  | Yes                | No |
| Has Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Been Notified?           | Yes                | No |
| Has NSW Ministry of Health (via Public Health Units) Been Notified? | Yes                | No |
| Has WorkCover NSW Been Notified?                                    | Yes                | No |
| Has Local Fire and Rescue NSW Been Notified?                        | Yes                | No |

## Attachment 4: Staff Training Register

| Staff Training Register |                  |  |
|-------------------------|------------------|--|
| Date                    | Staff Member     | Brief Description of Training Task                 |
| 22/1/2014               | Cornelia Weibels | Explained contents of PIRMP and requested feedback |
| 22/1/2014               | Brad Saunders    | Explained contents of PIRMP and requested feedback |
| 22/1/2014               | Martin Gordon    | Explained contents of PIRMP and requested feedback |
| 22/1/2014               | Jason Isedale    | Explained contents of PIRMP and requested feedback |
| 22/1/2014               | Frances Perry    | Explained contents of PIRMP and requested feedback |
| 22/1/2014               | Ben Smith        | Explained contents of PIRMP and requested feedback |
|                         |                  |  |

### Attachment 5: - Sewer overflow risk analysis

Tables 8,9,10 Of 2007 sewer overflow investigation report and map of at risk sewer infrastructure

### EVALUATIONS AND RANKING OF RISKS

The risk associated with sewer overflows can be qualitatively assessed by using a matrix of likelihood and consequence. For the Coonabarabran sewer reticulation system the model provided in the guidelines is used to express the magnitude of the risk associated with any overflow. The matrix from the guidelines is reproduced in Table 8 and results from the analysis are provided in Table 9.

**Table 8 - Risk Assessment Matrix**

| Likelihood         | Impacts           |             |              |             |                  |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|------------------|
|                    | Insignificant (1) | Minor (2)   | Moderate (3) | Major (4)   | Catastrophic (5) |
| Almost certain (A) | Significant       | Significant | High         | High        | High             |
| Likely (B)         | Moderate          | Significant | Significant  | High        | High             |
| Moderate (c)       | Low               | Moderate    | Significant  | High        | High             |
| Unlikely (D)       | Low               | Low         | Moderate     | Significant | High             |
| Rare (E)           | Low               | Low         | Moderate     | Significant | Significant      |

**Table 9 - Risk analysis of overflows from the Coonabarabran Reticulation System**

| Sewerage System Component                         | Magnitude of overflow risk in dry weather | Magnitude of overflow risk in wet weather |
|---|---|---|
| Individual sewer lines within reticulation system | (see appendix 5.0)                        | (see appendix 5.0)                        |
| Pump station No. 1                                | Low                                       | Low                                       |
| Pump station No. 2                                | Low                                       | Low                                       |
| Pump station No. 3                                | Moderate                                  | Significant                               |
| Pump station No. 4                                | Moderate                                  | Significant                               |
| Pump station No. 5                                | Moderate                                  | Moderate                                  |
| Pump station No. 6                                | Low                                       | Low                                       |
| Sewage treatment plant                            | n/a                                       | Moderate                                  |

**Table 10 - Risk Analysis of Overflows – Risk Magnitude Moderate or greater for individual branch lines in reticulation system. (Information extracted from Appendix 5.0)**

| Sewer Line | Likelihood of overflows in dry weather | Likelihood of overflows in wet weather | Consequence | Magnitude of overflow risk in dry weather | Magnitude of overflow risk in wet weather |
|------------|--|--|-------------|---|---|
| JA         | D                                      | D                                      | 4           | Significant                               | Significant                               |
| HN         | E                                      | E                                      | 4           | Significant                               | Significant                               |
| FA         | D                                      | C                                      | 4           | Significant                               | High                                      |
| BM         | D                                      | D                                      | 4           | Significant                               | Significant                               |
| BH         | E                                      | E                                      | 4           | Significant                               | Significant                               |
| B          | E                                      | E                                      | 4           | Significant                               | Significant                               |
| AJ         | E                                      | E                                      | 4           | Significant                               | Significant                               |
| AC         | E                                      | E                                      | 4           | Significant                               | Significant                               |
| A          | C                                      | B                                      | 4           | High                                      | High                                      |
| P          | D                                      | D                                      | 3           | Moderate                                  | Moderate                                  |
| N          | E                                      | E                                      | 3           | Moderate                                  | Moderate                                  |
| L          | E                                      | E                                      | 3           | Moderate                                  | Moderate                                  |
| HK         | E                                      | E                                      | 3           | Moderate                                  | Moderate                                  |
| HJ         | D                                      | C                                      | 3           | Moderate                                  | Moderate                                  |
| AY         | E                                      | E                                      | 3           | Moderate                                  | Moderate                                  |
| F          | E                                      | E                                      | 3           | Moderate                                  | Moderate                                  |
| CY         | E                                      | E                                      | 3           | Moderate                                  | Moderate                                  |
| CD         | E                                      | E                                      | 3           | Moderate                                  | Moderate                                  |
| C          | E                                      | E                                      | 3           | Moderate                                  | Moderate                                  |
| BY         | D                                      | D                                      | 3           | Moderate                                  | Moderate                                  |
| BV         | E                                      | E                                      | 3           | Moderate                                  | Moderate                                  |
| BD         | E                                      | E                                      | 3           | Moderate                                  | Moderate                                  |
| AZ         | E                                      | E                                      | 3           | Moderate                                  | Moderate                                  |
| AV         | E                                      | E                                      | 3           | Moderate                                  | Moderate                                  |
| GA         | D                                      | C                                      | 2           | Low                                       | Moderate                                  |

## Attachment 6 - Operational Procedures

| <b>COONABARABRAN SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT<br/>OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES</b>  |   |
|---|---|
| <b>A DAILY PROCEDURE</b>  |   |
| Prior to any work have a current risk assessment completed and check controls for hazards, PPE, procedures etc. |   |
|   | <b><i>Details</i></b>   |
| <b>i) During the week</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspect and take meter readings at sps's and ponds, clean screens and v-notch weir at ponds</li> <li>• Send humus sludge and clear water from syphon through head of works</li> <li>• Draw sludge from Sed Tanks and mix with appropriate seed from secondary digester prior to adding and mixing in primary digester, twice daily (mix #1 Digester a minimum of 4 hours)</li> <li>• Remove and dispose of screenings</li> <li>• Squeegee sedimentation and humus tanks</li> <li>• Brush all channels flumes etc daily</li> <li>• Complete daily running sheet</li> <li>• Perform drop test on alum dosing pump</li> <li>• Run standby pumps for one day once a week</li> <li>• Clean SPS's once a week</li> <li>• Use lime to correct pH in Digester 1 as required</li> <li>• When out of room in Digester 2 pour the wateriest sludge that hasn't been mixed recently (supernatant first) into a drying bed. If one isn't enough for weekend and/or public holidays a second can be poured (basically keep digesters full always)</li> <li>• Mix Digester 1 only for scum control after pouring a bed</li> </ul> |
| <b>ii) Weekend and Public Holidays</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Send humus sludge and clear water from syphon through the head of works.</li> <li>• Draw sludge from Sed Tanks and mix with appropriate seed from secondary digester prior to adding and mixing in primary digesters (mix #1 Digester)</li> <li>• Remove and dispose of screenings</li> <li>• Squeegee sedimentation and humus tanks</li> <li>• Complete daily running sheet for plant</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">Also refer to Office of Water Sewage Manual, available for staff</p>  |

| <b>COONABARABRAN SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT<br/>EMERGENCY PROCEDURES</b>  |   |
|---|---|
| <b>A EMERGENCY PROCEDURE FOR CHEMICAL SPILLS</b>  |   |
| <p>Refer to the following steps in the case of an emergency chemical spill at the plant.<br/><b>Note: Aluminium Sulphate (AH) is slippery when spilt</b><br/><b>Avoid accidents, clean up immediately</b></p> |   |
|   | <i>Details</i>  |
| <b>EMERGENCY PROCEDURE FOR SPILLAGE OF ALUMINIUM SULFATE</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restrict access to the area. Clear area of all unprotected personnel.</li> <li>• Remove other chemicals that may react with the spilled material.</li> <li>• If contamination of sewers or waterways has occurred advise local emergency services</li> <li>• Wear protective equipment to prevent skin and eye contact.</li> <li>• Avoid skin and eye contact and breathing in vapour, mists and aerosols.</li> <li>• Contain – prevent runoff into drains and waterways.</li> <li>• Use an absorbent (soil, sand or other inert material).</li> <li>• Neutralise with lime or soda ash.</li> <li>• Flush area with water</li> <li>• Collect and seal in properly labelled containers or drums for disposal</li> </ul> |
|   | <b>FIRST AID PROCEDURE</b>  |
| <b>ALUMINIUM SULFATE SOLUTION CONTAMINATION</b>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Obtain medical attention immediately</li> <li>2. Never give anything by mouth if victim is rapidly losing consciousness, or is unconscious or convulsing.</li> <li>3. Rinse mouth thoroughly with water</li> <li>4. DO NOT induce vomiting.</li> <li>5. If victim can swallow, have them drink 250-300ml water to dilute material in stomach.</li> <li>6. If vomiting occurs naturally, have victim lean forward to reduce risk of aspiration.</li> <li>7. Repeat administration of water</li> </ol>  |
| <b>EYE CONTACT</b>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Immediately flush the contaminated eye(s) with lukewarm, gently flowing water for 30 minutes, by the clock, holding the eyelid(s) open.</li> <li>2. Take care not to rinse contaminated water into the non-affected eye.</li> <li>3. If irritation persists, repeat flushing.</li> <li>4. If available, a neutral saline solution may be used to flush the contaminated eye(s) an additional 30 minutes</li> <li>5. Obtain medical attention immediately</li> </ol>   |
| <b>SKIN CONTACT</b>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. First aiders avoid direct contact with this chemical.</li> <li>2. As quickly as possible, flush contaminated area with lukewarm, gently running water for at least 30 minutes, by the clock.</li> <li>3. Under running water, remove contaminated clothing, shoes and leather goods (eg, watchbands, belts).</li> <li>4. If irritation persists, repeat flushing</li> <li>5. Obtain medical attention if effects persist.</li> </ol>  |

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
|                                  | 6. Completely decontaminate clothing, shoes and leather goods before re-use or discard.  |
| <b>INHALATION</b>                | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Remove source of contamination or move victim to fresh air.</li><li>2. Obtain medical advice if effects persist.</li></ol>  |
| <b>GENERAL/OTHER INFORMATION</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Provide general supportive measures (comfort, warmth, rest).</li><li>2. Consult a physician and/or Poison Control Centre for all exposures except minor instances of inhalation or contact.</li></ol> |
| <b>PHYSICIANS</b>                | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>3. Treat symptomatically</li></ol>   |



## **Attachment 7 – Definition of pollution incidents**

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 1997:

Harm to the environment is material if:

It involves actual or potential harm to the health or safety of human beings or to ecosystems that is not trivial, or

It results in actual or potential loss or property damage of an amount, or amounts in aggregate, exceeding \$10,000, and

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.

### **POLLUTION INCIDENT CLASSIFICATIONS, REQUIRED RESPONSES AND NOTIFICATIONS PROTOCOL**

Pollution incidents that may occur within the Coonabarabran Sewerage System can be categorised into two major areas in determining the type of response and notification requirements. If there is any doubt as to the level of notification required it is always best to err on the side of caution and immediately notify all authorities as well as any affected residents.

It is the responsibility of the person on site to first call 000 in dangerous situations requiring immediate emergency services assistance, advise other staff and members of the public in immediate danger (by carrying out a door knock and/or telephoning) and if safe to do so take immediate steps to reduce the impact of the incident. When able, the person on site is to notify the Manager Warrumbungle Water as soon as possible who will immediately notify the relevant authorities and relevant Council managers.

When attending to pollution incidents it is important to assess the tasks required and ensure that work is carried out in a safe manner in accordance with the WHS legislation and Council's safe work procedures. The Pollution Incident Decision Flow Chart in Section 4 of this document summarises the response to an actual or potential pollution incident.

### 3.1 Minor –

#### No Notification Required

The type of incident requiring no notification to external authorities is one that is of no danger to human health and no impact on the environment.

Typical examples include:-

- Sewer choke causing surcharge affecting a single domestic premise that can be easily cleaned up by Council (fill out Sewer Choke report after incident is cleaned up).
- Small, local spill of sewage or chemical within the Sewage Treatment Plant that is easily cleaned up by Council Staff.
- Offensive odours discharged from the STP or a pump station.

### 3.2 Major –

Notify EPA, Dubbo Public Health Unit, Workcover and Coonabarabran Fire Brigade, Council Management.

The type of incident classified as Major typically has the potential to, or causes actual harm to, humans and/or the environment.

Typical examples include:-

- Sewer Choke affecting more than one residence.
- Minor overflow in the reticulation system that is easily contained and can be readily isolated from the public.
- Overflow from the reticulation system into the Castlereagh River during a wet weather event.
- Sewage overflow in or near a school, public park, aged care facility or hospital where humans may be impacted.
- Sewage overflow during dry weather that enters the storm water system and could discharge into the Castlereagh River
- Pump Station overflow.
- Sewage Treatment Plant bypass or mechanical failure event that results in discharge of untreated or partially treated sewage from the STP site.
- Fire or Chemical spill requiring Emergency Services Assistance.
- Dangerous trade waste discharges (e.g. petrol from a Service Station) Vandalism that has or could have caused a pollution incident.

## Attachment 9 - Inventory of pollutants

To be updated as part of site audit

| Chemicals   | Present (?) | Quantity           | Storage   | Signage | Other /Comments  |
|---|-------------|--------------------|-----------|---------|--|
| Chlorine  | Yes         |                    | Workshop  |         | Raised   |
| Calcium hydroxide -<br>Ca(OH) <sub>2</sub><br>(Hydrated Lime) | Yes         | 40 bags<br>@ 25 kg | Workshop  |         | On a raised pallet   |
| LPG – cannister   | Yes         | 1 canister         | Meal room |         |  |
|   |             |                    |           |         | Entire site bunded<br>by earthwall –<br>downhill of plant. |

## Attachment 10 - Safety equipment

To be updated as part of site audit

| Equipment           | Location                         |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Fire extinguisher   | Workshop/well room/ meal room    |
| Breathing Apparatus | Workshop                         |
| Gumboots            | Workshop/truck                   |
| Masks               | Truck/office                     |
| Safety showers      | No but standard shower available |
| Eye wash            | No                               |
| PIRMP on site       | Needs updating with this version |
| Chemical spill kit  | Workshop                         |
| First aid kit       | Meal room                        |

**Attachment 11 - Pollution incident decision flow chart**

