



# **POLLUTION INCIDENT RESPONSE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

## **ARMIDALE SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT (incorporating the Effluent Re-use Farm & Reticulation network)**

**PUBLIC VERSION**

**(Revision 9)**

**April 2024**

Armidale Regional Council  
135 Rusden Street, Armidale  
NSW 2350

## **Purpose of the Pollution Incident Response Management Plan:**

Armidale Regional Council (ARC) has prepared a Pollution Incident Response Management Plan (PIRMP) for its Sewage Treatment Plant, Effluent Re-use Farm and reticulation network.

The PIRMP contains details on the site specific actions that ARC have or will, (when required as a result of a MAJOR incident), put in place to improve the way pollution incidents are reported, managed and communicated to the general community.

These actions meet the environmental requirements introduced by the Protection of the Environment Legislation Amendment Act 2014 and the Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Amendment (Pollution Incident Response Management Plan) Regulation, 2021.

The PIRMP aims to ensure there is:

- comprehensive and timely communication about a pollution incident to staff at the premises, the Environmental Protection Authority, other relevant authorities specified by the Act and people outside the facility who may be affected by the impacts of the pollution incident.
- control of risk of a pollution incident at the facility by requiring identification of risks and the development of planned pre-emptive actions to minimise and manage these risks; and
- a plan properly implemented by trained staff, identifying persons responsible for implementing it, and ensuring that the plan is regularly tested for accuracy, currency and suitability.

## **Contact Details for Immediate Notification of a Pollution Incident:**

Under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 it is now a requirement that all pollution incidents are reported to the EPA, NSW Health, Fire & Rescue NSW, SafeWork NSW and the local Council when material harm to the environment is caused or threatened.

If the incident presents an immediate threat to human health or property '000' will be called first as Fire & Rescue NSW, the NSW Police and the NSW Ambulance Service are the first responders, as they are responsible for controlling and containing incidents.

If the incident does not require an initial combat agency, or once the 000 call has been made, notification to the following authorities in the listed order should occur. The 24-hour hotline for each authority is given:

- NSW Environment Protection Authority Environment Line - 131 555
- Ministry of Health via the local Public Health Unit 6764 8000
- SafeWork 131 050
- Council (Environmental Services) 1300 136 833
- Fire & Rescue NSW (if not called for initial emergency response) 000 or 6771 5076

## **Communicating with Neighbours & the Community:**

Early warning and regular updates to owners and occupiers of premises who may be affected by a MAJOR incident occurring at the Armidale Sewage Treatment Plant or associated operations, will be notified as follows:

### ***Properties surrounding the Facility:***

Should a neighbour be required to take actions due to an impending or actual pollution risk, a call to the telephone (landline or mobile) of the resident or business where a pollution impact may be experienced and/or a direct door-knock will be made by ARC staff as necessary.

Residents or businesses may be further contacted by an Emergency Services representative, such as, in a case where evacuation or critical safety actions are necessary.

An 'all-clear' telephone call or door-knock will also be made to residents when the incident is no longer of concern or normality has been restored.

### ***Wider Community:***

Depending on the nature, scale and timing of the incident, Council will also place routine notices and updates on its website and provide information via the local Media.

## **Further Information:**

The PIRMP has been developed to comply with legislative obligations and is not an indication of increased pollution risk from the facility. Council welcomes any further enquiry about the PIRMP which can be made by calling **1300 136 833** or via e-mail to

[council@armidale.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@armidale.nsw.gov.au).