Inverell Shire Council

Pollution Incident Response Management Plan (Public Version)

For the

Inverell Waste Depot

(EPL 7463)

Inverell Shire Council
144 Otho Street, Inverell
NSW 2360

August 2012

Introduction

It is a legal requirement that particular agencies be immediately notified when a pollution incident occurs.

This Pollution Incident Response Management Plan (PIRMP) must be implemented immediately following a notifiable incident at the Inverell Waste Depot. A PIRMP details the protocol for notifying each relevant authority when material harm to the environment is caused or threatened. The following information and procedures will assist those responsible for reporting a pollution incident.

When does the notification requirement apply?

The notification requirement applies to any pollution incident where "a material harm to the environment is caused or threatened". This requirement means that any incident which involves harm to the health or safety of a person, or an ecosystem, must be notified unless it is trivial. Incidents which result in a cost or damage exceeding $10,000 must also be notified under this requirement.

Who is required to action the notification requirement?

The Council has the duty to notify under the legislation. This duty is to be performed by the person who manages the division carrying out the activity when the pollution incident occurs.

If the relevant manager cannot be located then the incident must be immediately referred to the Director, or any other member of the Executive Team to action the notification.

If the manager, or any member of the Executive Team, cannot be located promptly or without delay, then the staff member who has identified the incident has the duty to notify the relevant agencies in the manner described below.

How must a pollution incident be notified?

In the event of a pollution incident related to EPL 7463:

1. Council's immediate action will be to ensure the safety of people and containment of pollution if it is safe to do so.
2. Council's authorised representative will contact 000 if the incident threatens human health or property. This will mobilise Fire and Rescue NSW, the NSW Police and/or the NSW Ambulance Service (combat agencies) as required.
3. If a combat agency is not required then as soon as it is safe to do so, the following agencies will be notified in the following order:

The 24-hour hotline for each authority is given where available.

1. The EPA – Environment Line 131 555;
2. The Ministry of Health via the Local Public Health Unit 02 6764 8000
3. WorkCover 13 10 50
4. Fire and Rescue NSW 1300 729 579

Communicating with Neighbours and the Local Community

Communicating with neighbours and the local community is an important element in managing the response to any incident. Communication mechanisms may include incident notifications placed on the licensee's website, the use of telephone calls, letterbox drops and door knocking of affected community members, as appropriate to the circumstances, and radio advertising.

Further Information

The PIRMP has been developed to comply with legislative obligations and is not an indication of increased pollution risk from the facility. Inverell Shire Council welcomes any further enquiry about the PIRMP which can be made by calling Council directly on **(02) 6728 8200.**