



## Context

In accordance with Section 5.7A of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (POEO Act), Port Waratah has in place a Pollution Incident Response Management Plan (PIRMP). The PIRMP outlines the Port Waratah Immediate Notification Procedure and the communication mechanisms to be used with neighbours, the community and regulators. In the event of a pollution incident, as defined by Section 5.7 of the POEO Act, Port Waratah will implement the PIRMP.

## Immediate Notification Decision Making Process and Notification

1. All environmental incidents must be reported to the Operations Supervisor immediately after taking immediate action to prevent the incident continuing or to mitigate its impact, if it is safe to do so.
2. For environmental incidents causing or threatening material harm to the environment, the Operations Supervisor shall contact the persons below in the listed order until verbal confirmation with one of these contacts is made.
3. It is the responsibility of the persons listed below to investigate the circumstances of the incident, make the decision whether immediate notification is required.
  - a) Manager Operations Delivery
  - b) Manager Environment & Community Relations
  - c) Specialist Environment
  - d) Operations Superintendents
  - e) Operations Supervisor

(If none of the above respond, or are available, then the Operations Supervisor is to make the immediate notification decision and phone calls to the agencies listed below).

## Agencies to be Notified

Should an environmental incident require immediate notification; the following agencies must be notified in the following listed order;

1. NSW Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) ph: 131 555 (24hrs)
2. NSW Health, Public Health Unit ph: 4924 6477 (24hrs)
3. SafeWork NSW ph: 131 050 (24hrs)
4. City of Newcastle online: via [Regulatory-Pollution Notification Form](#)
5. NSW Fire and Rescue ph: 1300 729 579 (24hrs)
6. Port Authority of NSW ph: 4929 3890 (24hrs) For Harbour related incidents only
7. Department of Planning & Environment (DPE) online: via the Major Projects Portal



Further notification to local authorities such as utility providers may be required in certain circumstances, for example if infrastructure has been impacted. Consultation with the Environment and Community Team should be undertaken in conjunction with the notifications above to establish if any additional notification is required.

All discharges from the CCT settling pond (discharge point 11) require notification to the EPA as soon as practicable (during daylight hours) via the EPAs reporting phone line (131 555). The Specialist Environment shall make these notifications as well as a written report to the EPA within 21 days of any discharge from Point 11.

## Communicating with Neighbours & the Local Community

When determining the extent of any potential community notification, Port Waratah shall consider aspects such as the type of pollutant and the location of any potential off-site impacts and sensitive receptors i.e. local schools. With regards to contacting neighbours and community members, Port Waratah will follow the direction of emergency services.

In the event that communication with the community or neighbours is required, the following established mechanisms are available to Port Waratah. Selection of the most appropriate communication channel will be based on the type of event, and remain consistent with existing Port Waratah emergency procedures:

### Immediate/short term engagement mechanisms could include:

- Media releases – aimed at local radio, print, television and social media platforms
- Emails or phone calls to existing community contacts and leaders of community groups (including government representatives)
- 24-hour community enquiry line
- Community information sessions/forums
- Employee briefings
- One-on-one stakeholder briefings

### Ongoing/ longer term engagement mechanisms could include:

- Letterbox drop to local/neighbouring communities and industrial neighbours
- Community Meetings
- Community group briefings
- Community newsletters