

# **FORBES CWLE Pollution Incident Response Management Plan**

October 2021

## FORBES SEWERAGE TREATMENT SYSTEM - POLLUTION INCIDENT RESPONSE MANAGEMENT PLAN

LICENCE NUMBER: 12375

**Approved by:** Melanie Slimming  
**Position/Title:** Manager Water and Sewer

**Signature:**  
**Date:** 15/10/2021

### PURPOSE:

Forbes Shire Council holds an Environment Protection Licence with the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) for the Forbes Central West Livestock Exchange. 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 so that material harm to the environment (within the meaning of section 147 of the POEO Act) is caused or threatened, the person carrying out the activity must **immediately** implement this plan in relation to the activity required by Part 5.7A of the POEO Act.

A copy of this plan must be kept at the licensed premises, or where the activity takes place in the case of mobile plant licences and 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 must also be available either on a publicly accessible website, or if there is no such website, by providing a copy of the plan to any person who makes a written request. The sections of the plan that are required to be publicly available are set out in clause 98D of the Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 2009.

NOTE: This plan must be developed in accordance with the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* and the Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 2009.

Licencees should also refer to the EPA's *Guideline: Pollution incident response management plans*.

## Environment Protection Licence (EPL) Details

<b>Name of licensee:</b> (including ABN)	Forbes Shire Council
<b>EPL number:</b>	12375
<b>Premises name and address:</b>	Forbes Livestock Exchange Back Yamma Road FORBES NSW 2871
<b>Company or business contact details</b>	<b>Name:</b> Melanie Slimming <b>Position or title:</b> Manager Water and Sewer <b>Business hours contact number/s:</b> 02 6850 2300 <b>After hours contact number/s:</b> 0408 349 301 <b>Email:</b> melanie.slimming@forbes.nsw.gov.au
<b>Website address:</b>	<a href="https://www.forbes.nsw.gov.au/">https://www.forbes.nsw.gov.au/</a>
<b>Scheduled activity/activities on EPL:</b>	Livestock Intensive Activities
<b>Fee-based activity/activities on EPL:</b>	Animal accommodation - >600000 T accommodation capacity.

Contact details must include the names, position titles and 24-hour contact details. Details are to include alternative person/s, should the primary contact be unavailable.

<b>PIRMP activation</b>	<b>Name of person responsible:</b> Cassi Walmsley <b>Position or title:</b> Manager Livestock Exchange <b>Business hours contact number/s:</b> 0448 998 149 <b>After hours contact number/s:</b> 0448 998 149 <b>Email:</b> cassi.walmsley@forbes.nsw.gov.au
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## Pollution incident – person/s responsible, continued

### Notifying relevant authorities

Notification should be made by a person with an appropriate level of authority within the company.

**Name of person responsible:** Cassi Walmsley  
**Position or title:** Manager Livestock Exchange  
**Business hours contact number/s:** 0448 998 149  
**After hours contact number/s:** 0448 998 149  
**Email:** cassi.walmsley@forbes.nsw.gov.au

### Managing response to pollution incident

**Name of person responsible:** Cassi Walmsley  
**Position or title:** Manager Livestock Exchange  
**Business hours contact number/s:** 0448 998 149  
**After hours contact number/s:** 0448 998 149  
**Email:** cassi.walmsley@forbes.nsw.gov.au

## Notification of relevant authorities

Identify any persons or authorities required 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.

Relevant authorities include:

1. Fire & Rescue NSW and/or Rural Fire Service as applicable – 000 (first notification)
2. EPA – 131 555
3. NSW Health (nearest public health unit)

See [www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/Pages/phus.aspx](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/Pages/phus.aspx) for local contact details.

4. SafeWork NSW – 131 050
5. Local authority (usually the local council) in which the pollution has occurred.

Note: The local council and public health unit will vary depending on the location of the pollution incident. For mobile plant licences the PIRMP will need to include the person or people who are responsible for identifying the local authority and nearest public health unit.

<b>Fire &amp; Rescue NSW (Forbes fire station)/ Rural Fire Service</b>	<b>Contact number/s:</b>	02 6851 1843 02 6851 1541
<b>EPA ( Bathurst Office)/ Emergency Hotline No (24 hrs)</b>	<b>Contact number/s:</b>	02 6333 3800 131 555
<b>NSW Health – Bathurst Regional Office Public health office on call (24 hrs)</b>	<b>Relevant Area Health Service: Contact number/s:</b>	02 6330 5880 0428 400 526
<b>SafeWork NSW</b>	<b>Contact number/s:</b>	13 10 50

## Notification of relevant authorities, continued

<b>Forbes Shire Council After Hrs Emergency No.</b>	<b>Contact number/s:</b>	1300 978 633
<b>Central West Local Land Services (Forbes Office) (General contact number)</b>	<b>Contact number/s:</b>	02 6850 1600 1300 795 299
<b>Roads and Maritime Services</b>		13 77 88

## Notification of neighbours and the local community

Identify owners or occupiers of premises in the vicinity of the licensed premises, including any sensitive premises (e.g. schools, preschools, hospitals, nursing homes): Lot 2 DP 220212 adjacent property to east of CWLE – Johnson Rural Group P/L, 1278 Lachlan Valley Way Forbes	0427 574 270
Lot 88 DP750183 adjacent property to south of CWLE - Andjem P/L PO Box 5133 West Chatsfield NSW (Leaholme 155 Forest Rd, Forbes)	(unknown)
Lots 19 & 23 DP750154 adjacent property north of CWLE - Chris Morrison, Tarlemara 1034 Newell Hwy Forbes (Note land to the west is still currently owned by Forbes Shire Council.	0427 541 896

## Description and likelihood of hazards

The primary potential hazards to human health or the environment associated with the activity undertaken at this site –i.e. ‘Pollution Incidents’- include the following;

- Overflow animal waste (Effluent) to the environment
- Stormwater contamination when it comes into contact with animal holding pens, sludge stockpiles and treated wastewater irrigation areas.
- Identification of any failure of an environmental protection system due to solid waste (Manure is generated in animal holding areas, Primary and secondary effluent treatment sludge’s are generated in the treatment ponds, etc) generating in the saleyard.
- Identification of a significant difference in soil parameters where treated effluent discharge areas.
- Odour (Odours in animal holding pens are produced by manure and urine)
- Noises which are generated by several sources (animals, especially when in concentrated groups , machinery , plant and service vehicles, heavy vehicles, crowds, etc)
- Potential of the transmission of zoonotic diseases (such as Q-fever and anthrax) to humans (People who have had directly contact with infected stock/animals).
- Any other incident or observation that could potentially pose an immediate environmental /human hazard outside normal operating conditions.

**Identify the likelihood of any such hazards occurring, including details of any conditions or events that could, or would, increase that likelihood:**

The likelihood of these hazards having adverse consequences is low, due to the safe work methods and operating procedures in place at the CWLE. Extended high rainfall events increase the likelihood of pollution incidents as it increases the amount of contaminated stormwater and is more difficult to dispose of when its wet. Having the spray irrigation system working effectively allows staff to maximise the amount of effluent that can be applied all over the irrigation area, and maintaining low levels in both the sheepyard storage pond and irrigation effluent storage pond ensures there is capacity to deal with wet periods.

Also ensuring that there is adequate storage space for the solids waste storage

**Pre-emptive actions to be taken**

**Pre-emptive actions to be taken to minimise the risks of the hazards include:**

Maximising effluent irrigation so as to minimise stored effluent to provide a large buffer against any overflow.

Ensuring reuse of all effluent water on site, prevent any effluent from leaving site.

Maximising solids storage space by ensuring regular removal (at least annually) of the dried solids.

Ensuring contaminated runoff water from solid storage areas is directed back to the effluent storage ponds and not into the onsite stormwater drains.

Ensure that the irrigation tail water collection swale is generally kept empty which may require pumping tailwater back into the Effluent Storage Pond.

Workers in the industry have vaccines against zoonotic diseases such as Q-fever etc.

Ensure all workers are inducted and are aware of the operational procedures.

Provide PPE to worker at the site including, steel capped boots, gum boots, rubber gloves, hearing protection, safety glasses, broad brimmed hats, sun screen.

Fencing off, and restricting access to storage ponds and irrigation paddock for visitors.

**Inventory of pollutants**

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

Sheepyards runoff storage pond	25ML	Contaminated Storm and washdown water	Levels are maintained low by pumping access to the irrigation pond and irrigated onto the irrigation area.
Effluent Storage Ponds	7.7ML	Contaminated washdown and truckwash water	Levels are maintained low by regular spray irrigation to irrigation area
Irrigation Area	16.76Ha	Overflow of contaminated water	Manage irrigation to prevent runoff, by limiting amounts irrigated during wet periods and keeping storages low to enable build up if have a wet period.
Irrigation Runoff Control Basin		Tailwater from Irrigation area	Generally empty, recommending pumping out to effluent ponds if gets more than 50% capacity.

Solids Storage Areas 1 & 2	5500sqm	Manure and dried organics	Remove dried sludge every 6 months, pump off build up of runoff water to Effluent Storage Ponds
Fuel Storage	5000L	Diesel and Unleaded	

### Safety equipment

The CWLE has been designed to enable the delivery, containment, sale and removal of livestock in a safe manner. There are safe work method statements for how employees and users of the site undertake their activities, and the operational staff undertake routine cleaning and maintenance of equipment constantly. There are instructions provided for the use of loading and unloading equipment.

Safety exits are signposted and there are sprinklers and firehose reels situated around the complex in the event of a fire.

There are standard operating procedures for the routine cleaning of pens and other areas after sales to ensure the areas are clean and safe and that there is minimal waste left to be washed into drainage structures. The cattleyards and pig yards are covered with drainage directed to the onsite stormwater pond for reuse, reducing the amount of contamination.

Workers are provided with PPE to minimise direct contact with contaminated waste.

The site has spill kits in case of any fuel leaks from the fuel storage areas.

### Communicating with neighbours and the local community

Activities at the site are very routine and neighbouring property owners would be aware of the operations and high activity times that occur at the CWLE. In the event of an incident neighbours would be notified by phone, in person or email.

Council has installed signage around the site to warn of potential dangers, to direct people in the where they can go safely, and to restrict access to certain areas.

Users of the site are required to undergo an induction which highlights the dangers and risks at the site.

### Minimising harm to persons on the premises

All activities at the site are undertaken are covered by Safe Work Method Statements so that they can be undertaken in a safe manner to minimise or eliminate risk of harm. All workers and users of the site are required to undergo an induction which highlights the dangers and risks at the site.



Plan of CWLE site



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

**The actions to be taken upon realising that a pollution incident is or is likely to occur include the following.**

Take action to either prevent if possible or minimise any pollution occurring. This may include measures such as repairing any damaged drainage structures that are resulting in additional off site stormwater entering the effluent system. Or ensuring that uncontaminated stormwater can pass through the site without becoming contaminated or mixed with the effluent water.

Where possible damming drainage lines to prevent effluent from escaping from the site. That may not be feasible if whole area is saturated or inundated.

If overflows occur from the site, report event to EPA, and advise affected landholders. Take daily samples of the quality of the water leaving the site, to determine actual levels of contaminants. In localised flooding events that may result in overloading the system the effluent is significantly diluted by stormwater, and the concentrations of contaminants may be quite low.

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Develop a detailed description of how any identified risk of harm to human health will be reduced, including (as a minimum) by means of early warnings, updates and the action to be taken during or immediately after a pollution incident to reduce that risk:

The main risk of harm to human health would result from contact with the contaminated waste, and so the main means of minimising this is early warning of the neighbouring property owners.

The other risk of harm is potentially to stock on adjacent properties if their stock water becomes contaminated. A program of sampling the water quality of stock dams to ascertain whether it is compromised is recommended. This testing should be done immediately and continue during a contamination event until the impact is quantified.

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If required Council could arrange for the water to be pumped out of the dams and either replaced by treated water tinkered in or the use of portable stock troughs.

## Coordinating with persons

Should a pollution incident occur, such as an overflow of contamination, the Manager Livestock Exchange will notify the EPA and the affected landholder of the event, and keep them informed of measures taken to mitigate any hazards.

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Manager Livestock Exchange or person acting in the role is responsible for all communications regarding an incident.

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## Staff training

Identify the nature and objectives of any staff training program in relation to this plan:

The staff training associated with this PIRMP is to reinforce to staff the importance of maintain the routine operational procedures, to ensure there is maximum storage available in all of the effluent storage ponds, including Sheeppond, Effluent Irrigation Pond, and Irrigation Runoff Control Basin.

It also stresses the importance of operating the irrigation system to maximise effluent reuse without resulting in water logging and runoff of the irrigation area.

The plan also sets out the responsibilities of Council to inform authorities such as the EPA, CWLLS and neighbouring properties should there be an incident.

## Testing and updating of the PIRMP

### PIRMP testing details

Date tested	Tested by (to include the names of all people involved in testing)	Details of test (e.g. nature of the test, involvement of other agencies)	Finding of test, including issues identified	Next test/review
10/10/2021	Cassi Walmsley, Livestock Exchange Manager Coby Burt, Livestock Exchange Supervisor	Reviewed the plan, and actions required to prevent any pollution events, and went through actions required in the event of an effluent overflow from the site.	Some new staff, included fuel storage as additional hazard.	October 2022

### PIRMP update details

3/9/2020	Modified in line with the updated draft guidelines for PIRMP's	Updated format to PIRMP)	18/09/2020	18/09/2020
15/10/21	Updated contact details and relevant personnel			