

# Forbes Sewage Treatment Plant PIRMP

October 2021

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

LICENCE NUMBER: 4089

**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 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 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>	4809
<b>Premises name and address:</b>	Forbes Sewerage Treatment Works, Newell Highway Forbes NSW 2871
<b>Company or business contact details</b>	<b>Name:</b> Melanie Slimming <b>Position or title:</b> Manager Water <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>	Sewage Treatment
<b>Fee-based activity/activities on EPL:</b>	Sewage treatment processing by small plants ; - Scale .1000-5000ML discharged

## Pollution incident – person/s responsible

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:</b> Melanie Slimming <b>Position or title:</b> Manager Water <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
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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:** Melanie Slimming  
**Position or title:** Manager Water  
**Business hours contact number/s:** 02 6850 2300  
**After hours contact number/s:** 0408 349 301  
**Email:** melanie.slimming@forbes.nsw.gov.au

### Managing response to pollution incident

**Name:** Melanie Slimming  
**Position or title:** Manager Water  
**Business hours contact number/s:** 02 6850 2300  
**After hours contact number/s:** 0408 349 301  
**Email:** melanie.slimming@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.

Fire & Rescue NSW (Forbes fire station)/ Rural Fire Service	Contact number/s:	02 6851 1843 02 6851 1541
<b>EPA ( Bathurst Office)/ Emergency Hotline No (24 hrs)</b>		02 6333 3800 131 555
<b>NSW Health – Bathurst Regional Office</b>	<b>Relevant Area Health Service:</b>	02 6330 5880

<b>Public health office on call (24 hrs)</b>	<b>Contact number/s:</b>	0428 400 526
<b>SafeWork NSW</b>	<b>Contact number/s:</b>	13 10 50
<b>Forbes Shire Council After Hrs Emergency No.</b>	<b>Contact number/s:</b>	1300 978 633
<b>Department Planing, Industry and Environment (Inspector – Cindy Houston)</b>	<b>Contact number/s</b>	04197 496 670
<b>Forbes Shire Council After Hrs Emergency No.</b>	<b>Contact number/s:</b>	1300 978 633

### Notification of neighbours and the local community

There are 3 adjacent properties to the sewer treatment plant. To the west is Lot 10184 DP 752 962 owned by Douglas Shead. There is no house on the property and Doug Shead lives at 58 Sam St Forbes. His contact number was 0497 156 941

There are two properties to the North of the STP, both owned by Catherin Newcombe. Lot 1 & Lot 2 DP 516792. Catherine lives in Lot 1 (43 Warrul Rd), and her contact number is 0459 310 061. Lot 2 abutts the highway and contains the petrol station. i

Neighbours will be phoned where possible or staff will visit premises if they cannot be reached by phone.

### Description and likelihood of hazards

Provide a description of the hazards to human health or the environment associated with the activity to which the licence relates:

Raw Sewage released to the environment due to break in pipework, pipe blockage, failure of treatment process, equipment failure (pump failure), wet weather overflow

Contact with Pathogens in the sewer or sludge or in the air during aeration.

Storage of chemicals, including Alum, granulated chlorine, and small amounts of other chemicals, such as Sanafoam

Potential Drowning from falling into ponds or aerators

Odour pollution from insufficient treatment of waste

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

Description of Pollution Incident	Contributing Factors	Consequence	Likelihood	Risk Rating (LxC =)	Remedial Actions to Prevent, Control or Minimise
Sewer overflow from rising main failure	Age of pipe, material type, Location	Minor	Occasional	M	Upgrade assets in line with asset management plan, replace with corrosion resistant material. Installation of bypass arrangement on critical section over river. Have repair material on hand for rapid repair. Advise warn any affected residents.
Wet weather overflow/surcharge from reticulation due to stormwater inflow & infiltration	No. of Illegal connections, low and leaky manhole covers	Minor	Occasional	M	Council to undertaking a smoke testing & sewer inspection program to locate faulty sewer plumbing and sewer manholes covers. Upgrade assets in line with asset management plan to reduce infiltration. Minimal overflows due to improvements in assets, overflows now are highly diluted and generally diluted further by rainwater. Advise warn any affected residents
Wet or Dry weather overflow or surcharge due to blockages & obstructions.	Response time, maintenance regime, Effectiveness of cleanup	Minor	Occasional	M	Have staff on call to attend blockages at all hours, and have relatively short response times. Where possible collect surcharged effluent, Effective clean up and disinfect area. Upgrade assets in line with asset management plan to reduce line with root infiltration. Advise warn any affected residents
Discharged Effluent not fully treated due to some plant failure.	Mechanical failure	Minor	Occasional	M	Ensure routine maintenance of plant and equipment, attend to issues quickly. Ensure effluent discharge is going to Gum Swamp for dilution and a controlled & contained environment.. Advise EPA of issue. Advise warn any affected residents
Dry Weather Surcharge at Pump Stations, due to pump failure	Amount of detention time, Backup pumping capacity, Location of Pump Station, Amount of advance notice	Minor	Remote	L	Ensure telemetry is working to provide early warning of a problem. Maintain standby pumps for Stations with only one pump, have septic contractor pump out sewer pump station or manhole. Upgrade assets in line with asset management plan to minimise major failures.
Exceed Environment Protection Licence (EPL) discharge limits to the Lachlan River.	Dilution due to flow in river (river flowrate), level of exceedance generally minor.	Minor	Occasional	M	Divert flow to Gum Swamp in the event of a plant problem. Daily monitoring to ensure process is working well.
Acts of Vandalism or Sabotage at STP	Type or degree of damage	Moderate	Remote	M	Discharge bypassed flow to Gum Swamp for dilution and a controlled & contained environment. Maintain storage buffer in

Description of Pollution Incident	Contributing Factors	Consequence	Likelihood	Risk Rating (LxC =)	Remedial Actions to Prevent, Control or Minimise
					Gum Swamp. Daily monitoring of plant for early detection of problems.
Chemical Spill due to tank failure	Type & Volume of Chemicals stored	Minor	Remote	L	Bunding of large chemical storage, storage of smaller quantities in specially designed chemical cabinets. Keep MSDS on site for ready reference for treatments.
Chemical Spill during delivery, or outside bunding	Response time, Type & volume of chemicals stored,	Minor	Remote	L	Staff present during loading, Generally small volumes of most chemicals except Alum, Buffer area around plant from Alum storage area. Chemicals in secured area.

#### Inventory of pollutants

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

Identify the maximum quantity of any pollutant/s likely to be stored or held at particular locations (including underground tanks) at or on the premises to which the licence relates.

Chemical / Pollutant	Average Quantity	Location	Comments
Liquid Aluminium Sulphate (bulk)	30,000 L	Chemical bund area	Bunded to catch leakage in the event of damage/failure
Granulated Chlorine (40kg drum)	160 kg	Storage Shed adjacent to inlet works	
Disinfectant (20L drum)	100L	Storage Shed adjacent to inlet works	
Sanaform Vaporooter (5L containers)	50L	Storage Shed adjacent to inlet works	

## Safety equipment

Describe the safety equipment or other devices used to minimise the risks to human health or the environment and to contain or control a pollution incident:

The plant is protected from bush fires by cleared areas around the facility. The plant itself is protected from fire using fire hose reels and fire extinguishers. Further, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is provided for onsite staff with consists of:

- Self contained breathing apparatus
- Ear/hearing protection
- Sun screen
- Rubber Gloves
- Safety Glasses
- Steel capped boots
- Clothing (long trousers, long sleeved shirts, full body disposable overalls, etc)
- Broad Brimmed Hats.

## Communicating with neighbours and the local community

If there were any events that would potentially harm neighbouring residents or others in the community, Council would provide appropriate early warnings updates, by the most effective means. For people potentially directly impacted we would personally speak with them and advise of the issue and potential risks and measures they should take to stay safe. We would also provide updates on measures we are taking to address the issue. Where the matter can impact the wider community Council would place notices on our social media platforms and potentially on local news and media outlets such as the local radio stations and the newspaper.

The main pollution risks relate to untreated effluent escaping into the environment, and the main advice to the public to minimise the risks are to keep away from the contamination and use good personal hygiene if you come into contact with raw sewage.

## Minimising harm to persons on the premises

Identify the arrangements for minimising the risk of harm to any persons who are on the premises or who are present where the scheduled activity is being carried out: Staff on site have been inducted, have had immunisations for potential viruses such as Hepatitis. Council has developed Safe work method statements to carry out the tasks and have the necessary safety equipment required.





## 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:

In the event of a pollution incident, immediate action should be taken to stop and contain the pollution. As early as possible staff should alert the Manager Water of the Incident as well as the Water Supervisor.

Where possible the source of the pollution should be shut down, such as a broken rising main. If its due to a sewer blockage we should concentrate on unblocking the choke and getting the sewer flowing again. We should also call in a vacuum truck to assist with removing any excess contaminant around the site. They may also be able to maintain lower storage levels in the system to prevent further overflows.

Staff should assess the area and endeavour to contain the spill or overflow to the smallest area possible, by using sand bags or other containment barriers, or potentially creating a sump to contain the spill. Call the water supervisor for assistance with these containment tasks and also to obtain additional resources for the repair if required. If there is a risk to other nearby properties, staff should arrange contact of effected owners and advise them of the incident and what they need to do to minimise the hazards. That advice may need to be ongoing in the event or the impacts of the event extend over an extended period.

Once the pollution is contained or stopped work should commence on the repair to prevent any further pollution. Following the repair the site should be cleaned to remove the hazards. In the case of contaminated sewerage all effort should go into removing all trace of the sewerage from the site, and the area should be disinfected to kill off any remaining biological hazards. Where possible it may require areas to be washed down, trapping the washdown water and transferring it out to sludge drying beds at the STP, after the final clean the area should be disinfected.

As part of any incident the details shall be entered on Councils Vault Notify App and detailed investigation conducted into the cause and actions required to prevent future events and actions to improve the handling of these events.

## Coordinating with persons

**Identify the procedures to be followed for coordinating with the authorities or persons who have been notified:**

Water Manager or acting representative, is to advise EPA of incident and keep them informed of progress. Any affected residents are to be notified and warned of hazards and measures to prevent risk to health. Residents are to be kept informed of progress when work is completed. Report to EPA on completion of the incident.

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

Water Manager or acting representative is to notify EPA and any other relevant authorities. Staff on the ground to notify directly impacted residents.

## Staff training

To ensure employees are aware of Pollution incident response protocols and that all the details are upto date. Also to demonstrate how it would be put into action via a trial scenario.

## Testing and updating of the PIRMP

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

Detail the manner in which the plan is to be tested and maintained to ensure the information included in the plan is accurate and up-to-date and the plan is capable of being implemented in a workable and effective manner:

### Example: 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) Note: Testing must cover all components of the plan.	Finding of test, including issues identified	Next scheduled testing date (must be within 12 months from current test)
18/09/2020	David Tinlin Water Manager Phillip Nicholson – Sewer Team Leader Daniel Swanson – Sewer Plant Operator,	Sewer overflow, broken rising main, discussed actions to be taken, and who would do what.	Updated the PRIMP to new format.	01/09/2021
10/9/21	David Tinlin Water Manager Phillip Nicholson – Sewer Team Leader Daniel Swanson – Sewer Plant Operator Daniel Bayley – Water and Sewer Supervisor	Broken rising main. Discussed actions to be taken, including minimising contamination and bringing the pipeline online as soon as possible		1/10/2022

### PIRMP update details

Date update occurred	Reason for update	Details of updates (nature of changes to PIRMP)	Date the updated version uploaded to website	Date of completion
17/9/2020	Modified in line with the updated draft guidelines for PIRMP's	Updated format to PIRMP)	18/09/2020	18/09/2020
10/10/2021	Updated contact details			1/11/2021