



Murray Irrigation

Pollution Incident Response Management Plan

PLAN-01-

May 2017

Pollution Incident Response Management Plan



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1 Purpose

Murray Irrigation holds an Environment Protection Licence (5014) issued by the Environment Protection Authority. Holders of Environment Protection Licences are required by *Protection of the Environment Legislation Amendment Act 2011 (Part 5.7A: Duty to prepare and implement pollution incident response management plans)* to prepare and implement a Pollution Incident Response Management Plan.

2 References

Document	Document ID
Emergency Response Plan - WHSE	PLAN-01-
Hazard ID, Risk Assessment and Control	PROC-01-02
Emergency Preparedness and Response Procedure	PROC-01-
Emergency Coordinator Contact List Poster	POST-01-02
Incident Investigation and Reporting	PROC-01-04
Chemical Control Plan	PLAN-01-
Chemical Contingency Plan	PLAN-01-

3 Introduction

A pollution incident is required to be notified if there is a risk of 'material harm to the environment'.

Pollution incidents are required to be reported immediately, immediately meaning promptly and without delay. Murray Irrigation must implement the Pollution Incident Response Management Plan.

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4 Definitions

'**Material harm**' is defined in Section 147 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*:

(a) harm to the environment is material if:

- (i) it involves actual or potential harm to the health or safety of human beings or to ecosystems that is not trivial, or
- (ii) it results in actual or potential loss or property damage of an amount, or amounts in aggregate, exceeding \$10,000 (or such other amount as is prescribed by the regulations), and

(b) loss includes the reasonable costs and expenses that would be incurred in taking all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent, mitigate or make good harm to the environment.

Definitions in the Dictionary of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*:

Pollution incident means an incident or set of circumstances during or as consequence of which there is or likely to be leak, spill or other escape or deposit of a substance, as a result of which pollution has occurred, is occurring or is likely to occur. It includes an incident or set of circumstances in which a substance has been placed or disposed of on premises, but it does not include an incident or set of circumstances involving only the emission of any noise.

Pollution means:

- (a) water pollution, or
- (b) air pollution, or
- (c) noise pollution, or
- (d) land pollution.

Water pollution or pollution of waters means:

(a) placing in or on, or otherwise introducing into or onto, waters (whether through an act or omission) any matter, whether solid, liquid or gaseous, so that the physical, chemical or biological condition of the waters is changed, or

(b) placing in or on, or otherwise introducing into or onto, the waters (whether through an act or omission) any refuse, litter, debris or other matter, whether solid or liquid or gaseous, so that the change in the condition of the waters or the refuse, litter, debris or other matter, either alone or together with any other refuse, litter, debris or matter present in the waters makes, or is likely to make, the waters unclean, noxious, poisonous or impure, detrimental to the health, safety, welfare or property of persons, undrinkable for farm animals, poisonous or harmful to aquatic life, animals, birds or fish in or around the waters or unsuitable for use in irrigation, or obstructs or interferes with, or is likely to obstruct or interfere with persons in the exercise or enjoyment of any right in relation to the waters, or

(c) placing in or on, or otherwise introducing into or onto, the waters (whether through an act or omission) any matter, whether solid, liquid or gaseous, that is of a prescribed nature, description or class or that does not comply with any standard prescribed in respect of that matter,

and, without affecting the generality of the foregoing, includes:

(d) placing any matter (whether solid, liquid or gaseous) in a position where:

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(i) it falls, descends, is washed, is blown or percolates, or

(ii) it is likely to fall, descend, be washed, be blown or percolate,

into any waters, onto the dry bed of any waters, or into any drain, channel or gutter used or designed to receive or pass rainwater, floodwater or any water that is not polluted, or

(e) placing any such matter on the dry bed of any waters, or in any drain, channel or gutter used or designed to receive or pass rainwater, floodwater or any water that is not polluted,

if the matter would, had it been placed in any waters, have polluted or have been likely to pollute those waters.

waters means the whole or any part of:

(a) any river, stream, lake, lagoon, swamp, wetlands, unconfined surface water, natural or artificial watercourse, dam or tidal waters (including the sea), or

(b) any water stored in artificial works, any water in water mains, water pipes or water channels, or any underground or artesian water.

5 Incident Management

It is expected that in the majority of circumstances involving a pollution incident Murray Irrigation will be providing a supporting role to the relevant emergency service.

In the event of a 'pollution incident' Murray Irrigation will undertake an initial assessment of the incident severity, including assessing the impact on customers, community and environment. This analysis will be undertaken by the Emergency Coordinator.

The Emergency Coordinator is to ensure the following authorities are contacted immediately:

- EPA Environment Line: 131 555
- Ministry of Health – Albury: 02 6080 8900 (after hours diverts to Albury Base Hospital, ask for the Public Health Officer)
- Work Cover Authority: 13 10 50
- Fire and Rescue: 000
- Relevant Local Council
- Berrigan Shire: 03 5888 5100
- Murrumbidgee Council: 1300 676 243
- Federation Council: 1800 11 00 88
- Edward River Council: 03 5895 3000
- Murray River Council: 1300 087 004
- Water NSW: 1300 662 077
- DPI – Water Deniliquin: 03 5898 3900

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6 Testing plans

Murray Irrigation undertakes the testing of the Pollution Incident Response plan on a yearly basis.

The testing of the plan may involve a number of different approaches and scenarios, including but not limited to the following:

- Desktop audit of the communication actions described in the plan, including the appointment of the Emergency Coordinator.
- A simulated event in the field involving Murray Irrigation staff and emergency services combined.
 - This type of testing is undertaken on an as needs basis, as it requires considerable resources to be allocated to the test from within and external to M