



Appendix 5 – Pollution incident response management plan – Public extract

Background

This appendix of the Icon Water Googong Water Treatment Plant and Pump Station Emergency Response Plan (the Plan) lists how the Plan meets the requirements for a Pollution Incident Response Management Plan (PIRMP) under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (NSW) (the ACT); the *Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 2022* (NSW) (the Regulation).

This appendix also meets the requirements of clause 74 of the Regulation (2022) which requires certain information be made available to the public. This appendix is to be made available on the Icon Water website <http://www.iconwater.com.au/> and in printed form without charge to any person who makes a written request.

PIRMP requirements

Icon Water meets the requirements for a PIRMP as part of the Googong Water Treatment Plant emergency response plan. Table 1 lists those requirements and the corresponding sections of the Plan. Development of the Plan has been guided by and is consistent with, guidelines and protocols provided by the NSW Environment Protection Authority^{1,2} for a PIRMP.

Table 1 – PIRMP legislative requirements and corresponding Plan references

Act section(s)/Regulation clause(s)	Plan reference(s)
Form of plans [section 153D and clause 71(a)]	- Section 6.2
Relationship with other emergency plans [clause 71(b)]	- Sections 1.1, 1.4, 1.6, 2.2, 2.3, 4.4.5, 4.4.6, 4.4.16, 4.5, 6.2, 6.3. - Appendices 1, 2, 4, 6, 7
Description and likelihood of hazards [clause 72 and 73]	- Section 2.3
Pre-emptive actions to be taken [clause 72(c)]	- Section 2.3
Inventory of pollutants [clause 72(d) and (e)]	- Section 2.3
Safety equipment [clause 72(f)]	- Section 2.3 - Appendix 2
Contact details [clause 72(g) and (h)]	- Section 4.4.16 - Appendix 6

¹ NSW EPA - Guideline: Pollution Incident Response Management Plans

² <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/pollution/notificationprotocol.htm>

Act section(s)/Regulation clause(s)	Plan reference(s)
Communicating with neighbours and the local community [clause 72(i)]	- Sections 4.4.16, 4.5
Minimising harm to persons on the premises [clause 72(j)]	- Section 4.4 - Appendix 3
Maps [clause 72(k)]	- Appendices 1, 2, 3, 4
Actions to be taken during or immediately after a pollution incident [clause 72(l)]	- Sections 4.4.5, 4.4.6, 4.4.16, 4.6.
Staff training [clause 72(m)]	- Section 3.3
Making plans available [clause 74]	- Section 6.2 - Appendix 5
Testing plans [clauses 72(1)(n),(o) and (p) and 75]	- Section 6.3

Information to be made available to the public

Communicating with neighbours and the local community

Section 4.5 of the Plan specifies communication arrangements. Where necessary in the case of a pollution incident, Icon Water will implement arrangements to communicate with neighbours and the local community in a timely and effective manner. Means of communication may include but are not limited to:

- social media (Twitter and Facebook)
- Icon Water website
- mainstream media
- telephone
- door knocking
- letterbox drops
- emergency warnings (via emergency services).

Those likely to be affected are to be provided information on appropriate actions to take. Initially this information will be obtained from hazard specific guidance in the Plan and safety data sheets for the substance(s). This will be supported at the earliest opportunity by further information from Icon Water subject matter experts, emergency services and external sources according to the nature of the incident.

Icon Water will consult as soon as reasonably practicable, with Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council in the event that information needs to be provided to residents.

In the event that emergency services or another agency assumes control of the incident, Icon Water will coordinate its public information functions with the control agency.

Procedures for contacting relevant authorities

Section 4.4.16 of the Plan specifies the procedures for notification of relevant authorities. As prescribed by the EPA³, notifications will be made in the following order:

1. Fire and Rescue NSW/NSW Police/NSW Ambulance (via 000 if there is an immediate threat to human health or property)
2. Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
3. NSW EPA
4. NSW Ministry of Health
5. SafeWork NSW
6. Fire and Rescue NSW (via 1300 729 579 if not already notified via 000)

Due to proximity to the ACT and land management and water supply arrangements, the following ACT and Commonwealth agencies may also be notified:

7. ACT Health Emergency Management Unit
8. ACT Parks and Conservation
9. Department of Finance, Property Services Branch

Responsibility for notifications

The Chief Warden at the Googong Water Treatment Plant is responsible for notifying the Manager Major Plants or their delegate. In the event the plant is not staffed, the person initiating a response in accordance with the 'After-hours/plant not staffed' procedure is responsible for notifying the Manager Major Plants or their delegate.

The Manager Major Plants or their delegate is the person authorised to make external notifications under this plan. To provide timely and accurate information to relevant stakeholders, the Manager Major Plants will engage Icon Water specialists to assist with notifications as follows:

Notification	Icon Water supporting functional area
NSW EPA	
Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council	Environment and Sustainability
ACT Parks and Conservation	
Ministry of Health	
ACT Health	Water Quality
Fire and Rescue NSW (if not notified via 000)	Risk and Resilience
SafeWork NSW	People, Health and Safety
Neighbours and the community	Communications and Engagement

³ <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/pollution/notificationprotocol.htm>