

Site	Wongawilli Colliery	DOC ID	WWC EC PLN 002
Туре	Plan	Date Published	4 th April 2023
Doc Title	AVONDALE POLLUTION INCIDENT RESPONSE MANAGEMENT PLAN		

Avondale Colliery PA 09_0161

Pollution Incident Response Management Plan WWC EC PLN 002

Effective: 4/04/2023



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location

The details of Avondale Colliery (AC) as defined in Environment Protection Licence (EPL) 12442, are summarised in **Table 1**. The location and extent of the AC is illustrated in **Figure 1**.

Table 1: Avondale Colliery Details

Table 1. Avoidale collicty betails		
Licensee:	Wongawilli Resources Pty. Ltd.	
EPL Number	12442	
Postal Address:	PO Box 281, Fairy Meadow NSW 2519	
Scheduled Activities:	N/A	
Facility Name:	Avondale Colliery	
Facility Address:	Off Avondale Road, Avondale NSW 2530	

1.2 Background

Wollongong Resources Pty. Ltd. (WRPL) operates the Wongawilli Colliery (WWC) in the Southern Coalfields of New South Wales (NSW) which is the licensee for AC. AC is approximately 20 km south-west of Wollongong and lies within the Wollongong local government area.

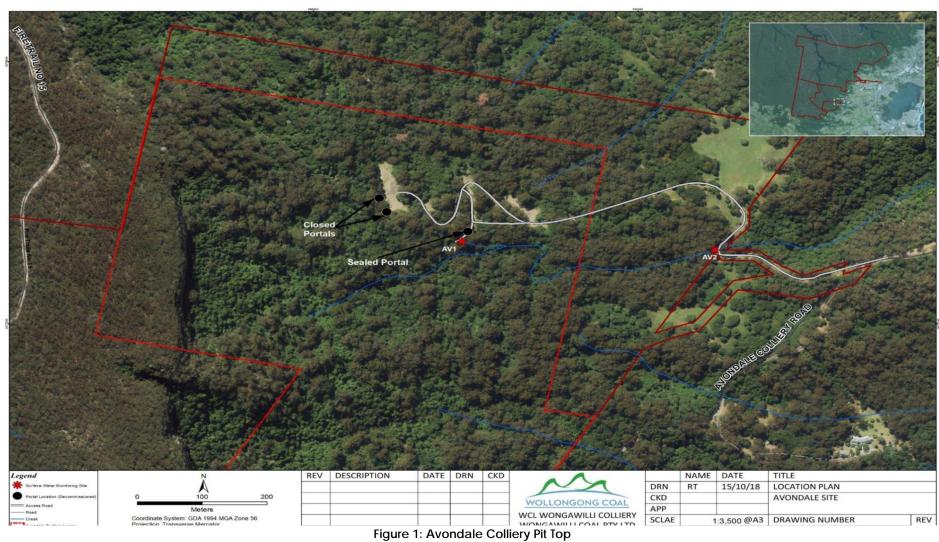
AC is situated within the Consolidated Coal Lease 766 and has a total area of 514 hectares. Part of the western portion of the lease sits on the Illawarra Escarpment. The crest of the Escarpment is at approximately 500 m Australian Height Datum (AHD) and slopes steeply down to the foothills at approximately 60 m AHD. The Illawarra escarpment is heavily vegetated. Land surrounding the AC comprises rural residential and farming properties.

AC is no longer in operation and has been rehabilitated. Only two partially open portals and a Licenced Discharge Point remain on the site. The portals are meshed to allow for visual inspection but restrict public access.

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2. SCOPE

This Pollution Incident Response Management Plan (PIRMP) has been prepared in accordance with Part 5.7A Section 153A of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1999 (POEO Act) and Part 3A Section 98C of the Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 2009 (POEO Regulation).

The PIRMP forms part of the Environmental Managements Strategy (EMS) for the mine and will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis. The PIRMP includes the systems and procedures implemented to manage the various incidents that may occur at, or be associated with, the activities that take place at AC that are likely to cause material harm to the environment.

3. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this PIRMP are in line with the NSW Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2012, 'Environmental Guidelines: Preparation of pollution Incident response management plans:

- ensure comprehensive and timely communication about a pollution incident to staff at the premises, the EPA, and other relevant authorities specified in the Act (such as the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE), local councils, Public Health, SafeWork NSW, and Fire and Rescue NSW) and people outside of the facility (community members) who may be affected by the impacts of the pollution incident;
- minimise and control the risk of a pollution incident at the facility by requiring identification
 of risks and the development of planned actions to minimise and manage those risks; and
- ensure that the plan is properly implemented by trained staff, identifying persons responsible for implementing it, and ensuring that the plan is regularly tested for accuracy, currency, and suitability.

4. DEFINITIONS

Definitions of key terms and abbreviations used in this PIRMP are addressed in Table 2.

Table 2: Definitions

Term	Definition
AHD	Australian Height Datum
AC (PT)	Avondale Colliery (Pit Top)
Chemwatch	Chemical management database
Consolidated Coal Lease (CCL)	A lease where several mining leases have been consolidated into one. CCLs were established under the <i>Mining Act 1973</i> and are no longer granted. Some CCLs however remain active.
CRO	Control Room Operator
Emergency services	Ambulance, Fire Brigade, Police
DPE	Department of Planning and Environment
EPA	Environment Protection Authority



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EPL	Environment Protection License
m	metres
NSW	New South Wales
PIRMP	Pollution Incident Response Management Plan
POEO Act	Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 No 156
RVC	Russell Vale Colliery
SDS	Safety Data Sheet
TARP	Trigger Action Response Plan
WRPL	Wollongong Resources Pty. Ltd.
WWC	Wongawilli Colliery

5. LEGISLATION

5.1 POEO requirements for a PIRMP

Table 3 addresses the relevant statutory requirements as detailed in the POEO Act and POEO Regulation 2009 for inclusion in the PIRMP and where each requirement is described in the plan.

Table 3: POEO Requirements for PIRMP

Requirements	PIRMP Section
Notification Procedures - POEO Act Section 148, 149	7
Action to be taken following a pollution incident – POEP Action Section 153C(b) and 153F	7, 9
Procedures for coordinating with the EPA, Local Council, Ministry of Health, WorkCover Authority and Fire and Rescue NSW – POEO Act 153C(c)	7.3.2
Description of hazards to human health or environment associated with the relevant activity – POEO Act Section 153C (d) and POEO Regulation 98C (1)(a)	Table 7
Likelihood of hazards occurring - POEO Act Section 153C (d) and POEO Regulation 98C (1)(b)	Table 7
Pre-emptive actions to minimise or prevent risk of harm to human health or environment – POEO Act Section 153C (d) and POEO Regulation 98C(1)(c)	12
Inventory of potential pollutants - POEO Act Section 153C (d) and POEO Regulation 98C(1)(d)	10
Maximum quantity of pollutant to which the licence relates - POEO Act Section 153C (e)	10
Safety equipment to minimise the risks to human health or environment – POEO Act Section 153C (d) and POEO Regulation 98C(1)(f)	14



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Names, positions and contact details - POEO Act Section 153C (d) and POEO Regulation 98C(1)(g)	Table 5
Contact details of each relevant authority - POEO Act Section 148 and POEO Regulation 98C(1)(h)	Table 6
Early warning mechanism for people off site - POEO Act Section 153C(a), (d) and POEO Regulation 98C(1)(i)	13
Arrangements for minimising risk of harm to persons on the premises – POEO Act Section 153C(d) and POEO Regulation 98C(1)(j)	13
Detailed maps - POEO Regulation 98C(1)(k)	Figure 1
Description of how any identified risk of harm to human health will be reduced, including early warnings, updates and action to be taken - POEO Regulation 98C(1)(I)	7, 12, 13
Training - POEO Act Section 153C(d) and POEO Regulation 98C(1)(m)	15
Testing of plan - POEO Act Section 153(d) and Section 153E and POEO Regulation 98C(n) and 98E	16.2
Updating of plan - POEO Act Section 153F and POEO Regulation 98C(o) and 98E(2)(b)	16.3
Manner in which plan is tested and maintained - POEO Act Section 153C(d) and POEO Regulation 98C(1)(p)	16.2
Availability of plan – POEO Act 153D and POEO Regulation 98D	16.1

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5.2 Definition of a Pollution Incident and Material Harm

The POEO Act defines a 'pollution incident' as being:

'Pollution incident means an incident or set of circumstances during or as a consequence of which there is or is likely to be a 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'.

Notifications of a pollution incident are required if there is a risk of 'material harm to the environment', which is defined in Section 147 of the POEO Act as:

- 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.

The POEO Act defines 'pollution' in the following terms:

'pollution' means

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

Material harm can occur both on land located within the EPL boundary, along with land located outside the EPL boundary. A determination of a material harm incident will be made by the Group Environment Manager.

If the Group Environment Manager is not immediately available, then determination can be made by a WRPL Manager.

If the Group Environment Manager or Manager delegate cannot be contacted, then the RVC Control Room Operator (CRO) must treat the incident as a material harm incident and initiate reporting to the relevant agencies listed in **Table 6**.

6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The roles and responsibilities of WRPL personnel are defined in Table 4.

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Table 4: Roles and Responsibilities

Role	Responsibilities
General Manager	Coordinate media response(s)
Management Team	Undertake Group Environment Manager responsibilities in their absence
Group Environment Manager	 Implementation and maintenance of this PIRMP Assess materiality of incident and activate relevant response system Assess potential for off-site impacts Notify internal stakeholders as appropriate Notify relevant agencies Coordinate annual PIRMP testing
Environment Coordinator	Support the Group Environment Manager in their responsibilities
Control Room Operator	Coordination of initial emergency response and internal notifications
Site Personnel	 Report actual or potential incidents immediately Assist in site response and clean-up activities

7. NOTIFICATION OF A POLLUTION INCIDENT

As a minimum, all employees are required to report all hazards, accidents and incidents which occur in the workplace that either have the potential to, or have caused harm to personnel, property, or the environment.

The specific responsibilities associated with this PIRMP are outlined in Table 4.

7.1 Timeframes for Reporting

If a pollution incident occurs at a premises that causes, or threatens to cause, material harm to the environment, this PIRMP will be implemented. All pollution incidents causing or threatening to cause material harm to the environment are to be reported in accordance with **Section 7.2**.

7.2 Incident Response Process

The process for responding to an incident that has resulted in a material impact to human health or the environment (as per the definition provided in **Section 5.2** of this plan), is shown in **Figure 2**.

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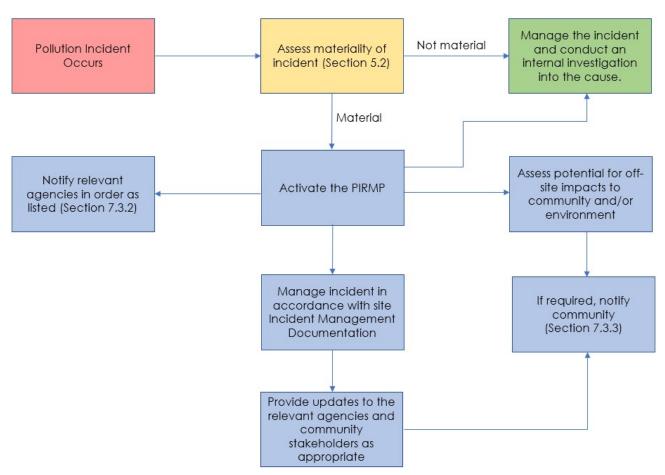


Figure 2: Incident Response Process

7.3 Notification Protocol

7.3.1 Internal Stakeholders (Employees/Contractors)

In the event of an incident that requires an emergency response for site personnel, the emergency response control plan (RVC MIN PLN 014) will be activated.

7.3.2 Government Agencies

The key contacts responsible for notifying the relevant government agencies are provided in **Table 5**.

Table 5: Avondale Colliery Key Contacts

Position	Name
WWC Mine Manager	Grant Watson - (02) 4223 6800
Group Environment Manager	Robert Faddy-Vrouwe - 0404 972 746
RVC Control Room Operator	Shift Operator - (02) 4223 6827

The government agencies provided in **Table 6** must be immediately notified (i.e. promptly and without delay) of a pollution incident that has caused, or has the potential to cause material harm. The agencies must be notified as listed (i.e. from top to bottom of the table) if deemed appropriate based on the nature of the incident. The order of contact is important. If an incident



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represents an immediate threat to human health and/or property, call 000 and speak with the relevant first responders immediately for assistance.

Table 6: External Agency Contact Details

External Agency	Contact Details
Emergency Response Agencies (Fire & Rescue, Ambulance, Police)	000 (Emergency) 1300 729 579 (Pollution notification)
Environmental Protection Agency	131 555 ¹
Department of Planning and Environment	(02) 4247 1852 compliance@planning.nsw.gov.au
NSW Resource Regulator	1300 814 609 ² nswresouecesregulator@service-now.com
Public Health (Local Health District) - Illawarra and Shoalhaven	(02) 4221 6700 ³ ISLHD-PHU@health.nsw.gov.au
SafeWork NSW ⁴	13 10 50 ⁵
Wollongong City Council	(02) 4227 71116
Fire and Rescue NSW	000 (Emergency) 1300 729 579 (Pollution notification)
NSW State Emergency Services	132 500
Water NSW (Sydney Catchment Authority) (If incident occurs on WaterNSW owned land)	1300 662 0777 <u>customer.helpdesk@waternsw.com.au</u>

- 1 Select Option 1
- 2 Office open between 8.30 am and 4.30 pm. Will be directed to on call person after hours
- 3 After hours (02) 4222 5000. Ask for Public Health Officer
- 4 SafeWork NSW do not regulate mines and therefore they should only be contacted where the incident has not occurred on the mine site
- 5 Select 2 and then Select 2
- 6 Ask for Environmental Planning Manager
- 7 Select 6, then select 3

7.3.3 Local Community

Community stakeholders that are potentially affected by a pollution incident causing or having the potential to cause material harm will be notified immediately (i.e. promptly and without delay) by one (or more) of the following methods:

- Door knocking by company representatives or emergency services personnel;
- phone call by a company representative;
- email from a company representative;
- letterbox drops; or
- other methods as determined by the Group Environment Manager.

If required (dependent on the nature of the incident) the communication should identify the practical steps the community members can take to minimise the risk of harm to their health or



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property during and after an incident. This may include instructions to close windows and doors and remain inside, avoid accessing water in creeks and rivers, or avoid using groundwater.

Regular updates will be provided to the affected community stakeholders throughout the course of the event.

Signage will be utilised to notify the community (where practical and required) if there is an incident on property outside of the premises where members of the community may be exposed to a hazard (injury or illness).

8. REPORTING AND INVESTIGATION

All Environmental incidents are to be reported to and investigated by the Group Environment Manager.

An incident notification and investigation report form (WCL HS FRM 001) must be completed by the first responding employee at all Environmental incidents, before they leave site.

8.1 Procedure for Reporting an Incident

Upon discovery of an incident, it is the responsibility of the first responder to initiate the clean-up procedure, mobilise site personnel for assistance, and notify the relevant internal and external parties.

Where an incident represents an immediate threat to human health or property, the first point of contact should be to the emergency response hotline, by dialling triple zero (i.e. 000).

If the incident does not require an initial emergency response, or once the triple zero (i.e. 000) call has been made, in accordance with the EPA notification protocol, the Group Environment Manager or managerial delegate must be notified. If contact cannot be made with the personnel in **Table 5**, then the RVC CRO should be notified.

Once notified of an incident, it is the responsibility of the Group Environment Manager, managerial delegate, or the RVC CRO to activate the PIRMP, if required, and notify the relevant authorities.

8.2 Relevant information to be given to authorities

Section 150 of the POEO Act outlines the relevant information that must be provided when notifying the authorities about a pollution incident:

- a) The time, date, nature, duration and location of the incident;
- b) the location of the place where pollution is occurring or is likely to occur;
- c) the nature, the estimated quantity or volume and the concentration of any pollutants involved, if known;
- d) the circumstances in which the incident occurred (including the cause of the incident, if known):
- e) the action taken or proposed to be taken to deal with the incident and any resulting pollution or threatened pollution, if known;
- f) other information prescribed by the regulations.

If the information required to be included in a notice of a pollution incident by subsection is not known to that person when the initial notification is made but becomes known afterwards, that information must be notified immediately after it becomes known.

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9. EMERGENCY RESPONSE

WRPL maintains an emergency response control plan (RVC MIN PLN 014) for the premises, which outlines the immediate on-site response to an incident. It defines the roles and responsibilities of key site personnel and provides information on evacuation protocols and muster points. The emergency response control plan (RVC MIN PLN 014) is to be applied concurrently with the PIRMP.

If there is an emergency on site, the person who discovers it must initiate the emergency response by notifying the RVC CRO, either by telephone, radio, or other means.

The CRO will activate the procedures in the WRPL emergency response control plan (RVC MIN PLN 014) and update the system as the incident progresses.

Surface personnel will assemble at the appropriate muster point and will await instruction from the person assuming the role of the *Incident Controller*. If evacuation is not required, personnel will remain on site and assist in the management and containment of the emergency as per the instruction of the *Incident Controller*.

The *Incident Controller* will communicate with emergency services personnel to identify the appropriate actions to be taken.

10. INVENTORY OF POLLUTANTS

No dangerous goods, substances or chemicals are stored at AC.

11. DESCRIPTION AND LIKLIHOOD OF HAZARDS

The assessment of pollution and other incidents with potentially material consequences are provided in **Table 7**. Regardless of whether a particular incident is captured within the hazard assessment table, any pollution incident with the potential for material consequences will be addressed as per the incident management guidelines of this plan.

Table 7: Hazard Assessment Summary

Hazard	Fire		
Storage ID	N/A		
Cause	 Drought conditions Surrounding bushland producing high fuel load Lightning strike Arson 		
Impact	Threat of harm to the community members and their properties surrounding the site		
Likelihood	Low	Material Harm	High
Controls	Hazard reduction activities as needed		
Actions	 Contact Fire and Rescue NSW – 000 (Emergency) Initiate emergency response control plan (RVC MIN PLN 014) by contacting the RVC CRO Activate PIRMP if there is actual or potential material environmental harm 		



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12. PRE-EMPTIVE ACTIONS TO BE UNDERTAKEN

Table 7 describes the specific pre-emptive actions that are in place to reduce the risk of harm to human health or the environment where a specific incident may occur. In addition to the actions outlined in **Table 7**, the following pre-emptive actions are implemented to reduce the risk of harm occurring because of a pollution incident:

- an established EMS:
- regular training for site personnel (outlined in Section 15);
- risk assessments undertaken prior to tasks and activities to identify risks to health, safety and the environment (includes SLAMs, task analyses, qualitative risk assessments);
- routine monitoring of environmental parameters in accordance with the EPL and Water Management Plan;
- routine site inspections;
- Site induction process for new equipment arriving to site;
- a maintenance schedule for site equipment and infrastructure;
- pre-use inspections of site equipment to ensure safety and environmental standards are upheld;
- investigations of incidents, and implementation of corrective actions to prevent reoccurrence;
- pre-shift communications and toolbox talks delivered to site personnel to communicate incidents, hazards and corrective actions;
- internal governance reviews undertaken to confirm compliance with site management plans;
- bunds installed for the appropriate storage of hazardous materials; and
- a substance approval process for the introduction of new chemicals to site.

13. MINIMISATION OF HARM TO PERSONS ON THE PREMISES

Actions and arrangements are in place to minimise the risk of harm to any persons known to be on the premises, or who are likely to be on the premises, should an incident occur. These actions and arrangements include:

- access to site is restricted to inducted (or otherwise approved) persons;
- minimum personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements enforced; and
- site personnel are informed, trained, and competent, relating to their responsibility and actions during an emergency
 - training in emergency response for site personnel includes evacuation points and procedures.

14. EQUIPMENT FOR CONTROLLING OR CONTAINING A POLLUTION INCIDENT

The WRPL hazardous substances and dangerous goods procedure (RVC HS PRO 005) outlines the process to be followed in the event of a spill.

THIS DOCUMENT IS UNCONTROLLED WHEN PRINTED



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In addition, the WRPL Spill Trigger Action Response Plan (TARP) (WCL EC TARP 002) is made available in the Control Room for use in the event of a spill to determine the actions that need to be taken.

15. TRAINING

All site personnel will be made aware of the PIRMP during their site induction which is a prerequisite for working on any WRPL controlled premises.

Personnel will participate in refresher training as part of the annual PIRMP testing requirements (outlined in **Section 16.2**).

16. PLAN ADMINISTRATION

16.1 Availability of Plan

In accordance with Section 153D of the POEO Act and Part 3A Section 98D of the POEO Regulation 2009, the plan will be made available to all site personnel via the site document control system.

The plan framework, protocols, and processes (public version) will be made available to the public on the WRPL website: www.wollongongresources.net.au

A copy of the public version of the plan will be provided to any person, free of charge, upon request.

A copy of the plan will be maintained at AC and WWC. Copies will be made readily available to those responsible for its implementation, and at the request of any authorised officer.

16.2 PIRMP Testing

In accordance with Part 5.7A Section 153E of the POEO Act 1999 and Part 3A Section 98E of the POEO Regulation 2009, this plan will be tested at least once every 12 months and within one month of a pollution incident occurring. The purpose of testing is to ensure that the information contained within the plan is accurate, up to date, and that the plan is capable of being implemented in a workable and effective manner.

Desktop simulations are the primary method for testing this plan, but periodic practical exercises or drills may be used to supplement this approach. Activation of this plan during an actual event may also be considered as a test.

WRPL maintains a PIRMP Test form (WCL EC FRM 012) to provide staff with instruction on how to properly conduct an efficient, accurate and safe PIRMP Test.

A record of tests is provided in Table 8.

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Table 8: Record of PIRMP Tests

Test date	Person testing plan	Persons involved in the test
22/05/2020	Ron Bush	Ron Bush, Robert Faddy-Vrouwe, Sasa Cugalj, Justin Merdith, Xingpeng Fan
17/08/2022	J. Payne	T. McMahon, S. Reynolds

16.3 PIRMP Review

The PIRMP will be reviewed annually as part of the PIRMP Test procedure outlined in Section 16.2.

Updates to the PIRMP will occur when key personnel or regulatory agency contact details change or when there is an update to a site procedure.

The PIRMP is a controlled document, and as such, the document control process will be followed when updating the PIRMP.

17. PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

There are offences set out in the POEO Act in relation to PIRMP requirements. These relate to the failure to:

- prepare a PIRMP that complies with Part 5.7A of the POEO Act;
- ensure the PIRMP is kept at the premises the EPL relates to, and make parts of it available to the public; and
- test the PIRMP in accordance with the regulations.

The maximum penalties for the above offences are:

- for corporations \$1,000,000, and for continuing offences, a further penalty of \$120,000 per day the offence continues; and
- for individuals \$250,000, and for continuing offences, a further penalty of \$60,000 per day the offence continues.

It is also an offence if a person carrying out an activity does not implement the relevant PIRMP if a pollution incident occurs in the course of an activity, so material harm to the environment is caused or threatened.

The maximum penalties for this offence are:

- for corporations \$2,000,000, and for continuing offences, a further penalty of \$240,000 per day the offence continues; and
- for individuals \$500,000, and for continuing offences, a further penalty of \$120,000 per day the offence continues.

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18. REFERENCES AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- Protection of the Environment Operations (POEO) Act 1997
- Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 2009
- NSW EPA, 2012, 'Environmental Guidelines: Preparation of pollution Incident response management plans
- WRPL emergency response control plan (RVC MIN PLN 014)
- WRPL incident notification and investigation report form (WCL HS FRM 001)
- WRPL hazardous substance and dangerous goods procedure (RVC HS 005)
- WWR Biodiversity Management Plan Appendix A (WWC EC PLN 007)
- WRPL Spill Trigger Action Response Plan (WCL EC TARP 002)
- WRPL Pollution Incident Response Management Plan (PIRMP) Test (WCL EC FRM 012)

19. CONTROL AND REVISION HISTORY

PROPERTY	VALUE
Approved by	Group Environment Manager
Document Owner	Robert Faddy-Vrouwe
Effective Date	4/04/2023

VERSION	DATE REVIEWED	REVIEW TEAM (CONSULTATION)	NATURE OF THE AMENDMENT
1	11/03/2016	K. Prajapati (WCL), D. Clarkson (WCL)	Final Plan
2	11/05/2018	John Ross (WCL)	AEMR annual review and minor updates
3	23/10/2019	John Ross (WWC)	AEMR annual review and minor updates
4	01/03/2020	Ron Bush, Peter Roser, Robert Faddy-Vrouwe, Sasa Cugalj, Justin Merdith	Tested and changed Risk Assessment (March 20). Updated contacts and minor changes made
5	25/02/2021	Richard Sheehan, Robert Faddy-Vrouwe, Sasa Cugalj, Justin Merdith	Minor changes made & test scheduled for May 21 Update contact details.
6	01/03/2023	D. Jolley, R. Faddy-Vrouwe, J. Payne	Updated format, procedures, and contact details