



Cabonne Council

Molong Sewage Treatment Plant Pollution Incident Response Management Plan

May 2025

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1. Background

1.1 Sewerage operations

Cabonne Council (Council) operates a sewerage scheme at Molong that operates under Environment Protection Licence (EPL) 1623. EPL 1623 is issued under Section 55 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

1.1.1 Molong sewage treatment scheme

The Molong scheme was constructed in 1979 and consists of three pumping stations, 25 km of underground mains, and a sewage treatment plant (STP) located to the north of Molong off the Mitchell Highway. Here, the sewage is treated biologically with an extended aeration "activated sludge" process. The product is discharged from a pasveer (circular treatment) channel into a large effluent pond for further polishing and UV disinfection before it is discharged into the Molong Creek.

1.2 PIRMP purpose

The EPL contains a requirement to report pollution incidents as outlined in Section 6, Reporting conditions:

The licensee or its employees must notify the EPA of incidents causing or threatening material harm to the environment immediately after the person becomes aware of the incident in accordance with the requirements of Part 5.7 of the Act:

- R2.1 Notifications must be made by telephoning the EPA Environment Line on 131 555.
- R2.2 The licensee must provide written details of the notification to the EPA within seven days of the date on which the incident occurred.

2. Pollution Incident Response Planning

2.1 Risk assessment

The risk assessment was reviewed with site personnel during testing of the PIRMP on 8 May 2025. The main hazards identified and control measures to minimise the occurrence and consequences (people and environment) of the identified risks are outlined in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1 Hazards

Location	Hazard	Control Measure/s	Consequence	Likelihood of material harm	Escalating Factors
STP	Insufficient treatment – wet weather overflow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UV disinfection • Daily site risk assessments • Incident response procedures • On site water quality analysis • Dilution from infiltration throughout the sewer network and creek flows 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution of downstream waterbody 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant rainfall event • Plant malfunction
	Spill of chemicals / fuels / oils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff training in use • Appropriate storage • Small quantities of chemicals / fuels / oils stored 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Localised soil contamination 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inappropriate storage of chemicals / fuels / oils • Use of chemicals / fuels / oils by untrained staff
	Spill of untreated sewage to land – wet weather overflow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff on call • Maintain equipment for sewage clean up and unblocking sewers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Localised soil contamination 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant rainfall event
Sewer reticulation network	Spill of untreated sewage to land – sewer choke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24hr Customer Service • Staff on call • Maintain equipment for sewage clean up and unblocking sewers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Localised soil contamination • Community contact with untreated sewage • Discharge of untreated sewage to waterways 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in solids content of sewage • Unauthorised material discharged to sewer network • Proximity of sewer choke to sensitive receptors
	Spill of untreated sewage to land – pump station failure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular inspections • 24hr Customer Service • Staff on call 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Localised soil contamination • Community contact with untreated sewage • Discharge of untreated sewage to waterways 	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in solids content of sewage • Unauthorised material discharged to sewer network

2.2 Potential pollutants and safety equipment

A number of potential pollutants are stored, used and disposed of at the Molong STP for operational activities. These include chemicals, fuels, oils, lubricants, cement, lime, and treated and untreated sewage.

A range of safety equipment and alarms are maintained at the Molong STP and throughout the sewer network for use during emergencies.

Details of potential pollutants and safety equipment are provided in Table 2-2. The location of the items listed is shown on the maps in Appendix B.

Table 2-2 Inventory of pollutants and safety equipment

Location	Potential Pollutant	Maximum Quantity	Storage	Safety Equipment and Devices	Alarms
Pump stations	Sewage	Site specific	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Standby pumpsBunds	<ul style="list-style-type: none">High level alarms connected to telemetry
Sewer reticulation network	Sewage	Site specific	N/A	N/A	Nil
Molong STP	Sewage	ADWF 500 kL/day (approx.)	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Rubber glovesFace masksMobile pumpFloat switch and level sensor (STP wet weather shutdown)Firefighting equipmentSDSsFirst aid kitSignagePPE including ear protection, hard hats, ear plugs, appropriate footwear, high vis vests	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Pager system to notify operators of power outages and pump station shutdown
	For Earth	100 L	Shed		
	Oils	40 L			
	Roundup	20 L			
	Hydrated lime	200 kg			
	Fuel	10 L			
	Disinfectant	5 L			
Molong Depot	Oils	40 L	Shed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Gas monitoring equipmentRakes, shovels, sand and hydrated limePressure cleaner, rods and electric eelConfined space PPEFirefighting equipmentSDSsFirst aid kit	Nil

2.3 Maps

Pollution incident response maps have been prepared to facilitate planning for incident response and provide readily accessible and accurate information to support the assessment of an incident and assist in the implementation of incident response procedures and clean-up.

The following maps are provided in Appendix B.

- Molong locality map
- Molong STP features map

2.4 Notifiable Incidents

2.4.1 POEO Act Definitions

A pollution incident is defined by the POEO Act as:

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.

Material harm is defined by the POEO Act as:

(1) For the purposes of this Part:

(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.

(2) For the purposes of this Part, it does not matter that harm to the environment is caused only in the premises where the pollution incident occurs.

Licensed facilities are required to report pollution incidents immediately to the EPA, NSW Health, Fire and Rescue NSW, WorkCover NSW and the local council. 'Immediately' has its ordinary dictionary meaning of promptly and without delay.

3. Incident response

3.1 Immediate notification incident

3.1.1 Incident response and notification

As per the definition of an immediate notification incident in section 2.4.1 and resulting from the risk assessment in Table 2-1, Council have identified the following incidents related to their sewer operations that require immediate notification:

- Pump station failure resulting in overflow to a waterway
- Sewer choke resulting in an overflow to a waterway.

Council's procedures for responding to a potential immediate notification incident are outlined in Figure 3-1.

Contact details for Council personnel and external agencies requiring notification are provided in Table 3-1 and Table 3-2.

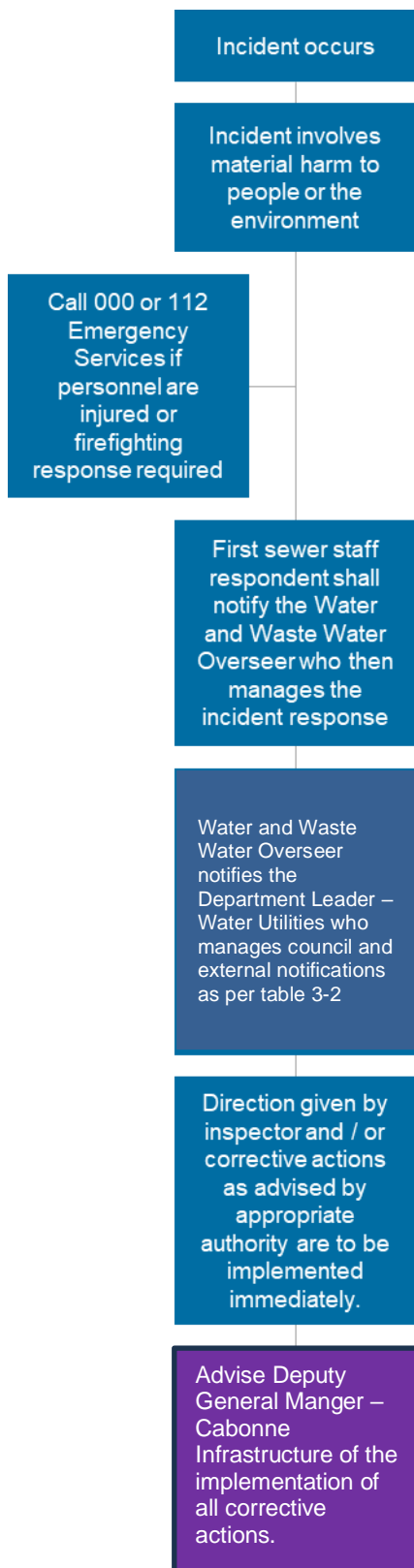


Figure 3-1 Sewer Operations Incident Response Flowchart

Table 3-1 Incident Contact Details – Council

Name	Position	Contact Number
David McRae	Department Leader – Water Utilities	0448 996 362
Jarrad Meade	Overseer – Water & Wastewater	0474 782 170
Council Regular Hours Contact		(02) 6392 3200
Council After Hours Contact		(02) 6392 3234

Table 3-2 Incident Contact Details – External

Organisation	Contact Number
Emergency Services	000
NSW EPA	131 555
SafeWork NSW	131 050
Essential Energy	132 080
NSW Health – Bathurst Public Health Unit	(02) 6330 5880 0428 400 526

In the event of an immediate notification incident, responsibilities for incident management are as follows:

- On Call Supervisor is responsible for actioning response to the incident.
- Water & Waste Water Overseer is responsible for managing the incident response.
- Department Leader – Water Utilities is responsible for notifying external authorities, potentially affected community and ensuring adequate resources are available for incident response.

The Operations Manager shall determine the most appropriate means of contacting potentially affected community including:

- Door knocking
- Letterbox drops
- Phone
- Local media
- Signage
- Social media.

Information provided to the community would depend on the incident but could include:

- Description of the incident
- Status of incident
- Response actions
- Actions to minimise harm
- Likely duration.

As per EPL 1623, the licensee must provide written details of the notification to the EPA within seven days of the date on which the incident occurred.

3.2 General incident

3.2.1 Sewer operations

Council maintain incident response procedures for other potential incidents throughout the sewer network including:

Sewer choke – Figure 3-2

- Pump station failure – Figure 3-3
- STP overflow – Figure 3-4.

The EPL requires details of the incidents be recorded as per the Sewage Overflow Reports (Appendix A) and maintained by Council.

Where there is an observed or reported overflow from the reticulation system or where sewage or partially treated sewage is discharged from the premises as a result of a bypass of the treatment system and this overflow or bypass has the potential to impact on human or environmental health, the licensee is to promptly give appropriate notification to any parties that are likely to be affected, including:

- The affected community
- NSW Health and any other relevant authority in accordance with condition R2.1
- The Molong Creek and Tributaries Management and Protection Association Incorporated (in pollution of waterways), and
- Any other parties as identified in, and in accordance with, the Incident Notification Procedures (protocol) submitted to the EPA in a letter from the licensee dated 8 October 2004, or subsequent approved variation/s to this protocol as updated from time to time.

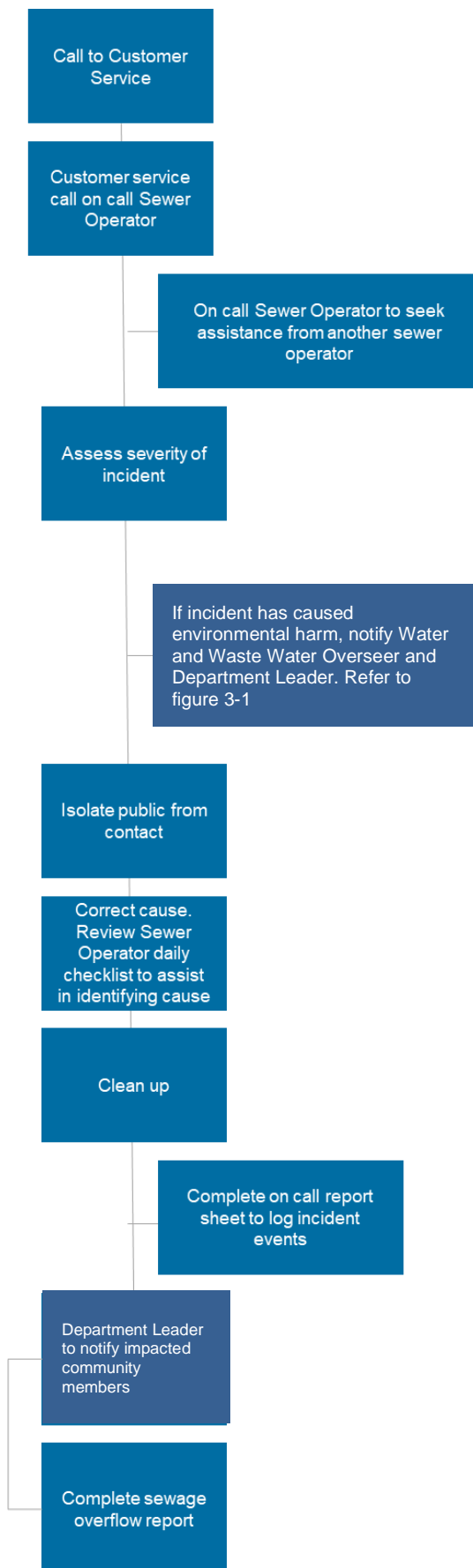


Figure 3-2 Incident Response – Sewer choke

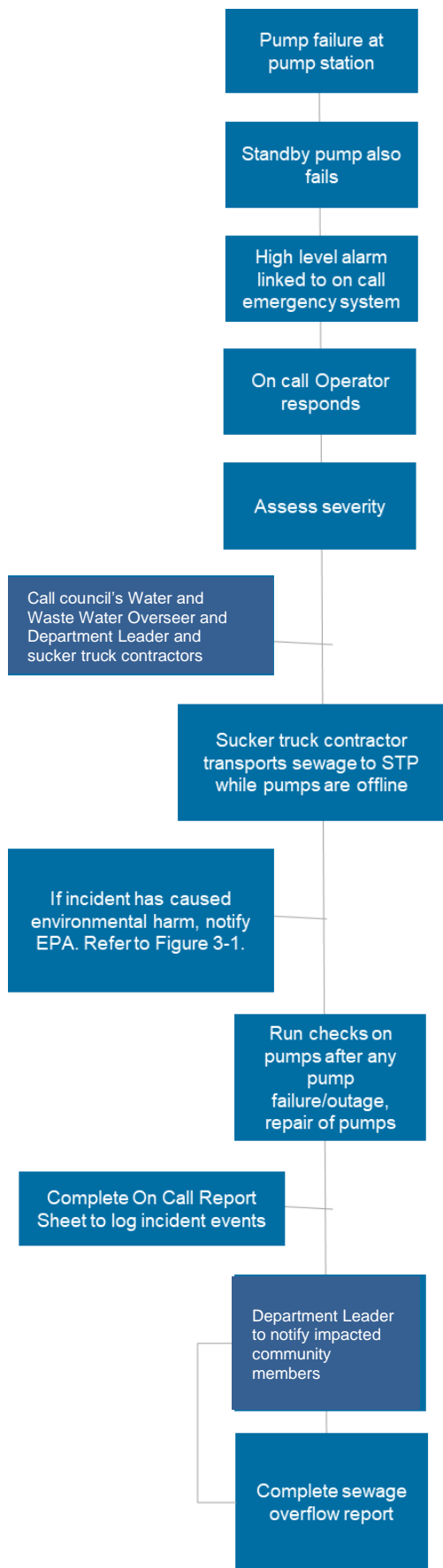


Figure 3-3 Incident Response – Pump station failure

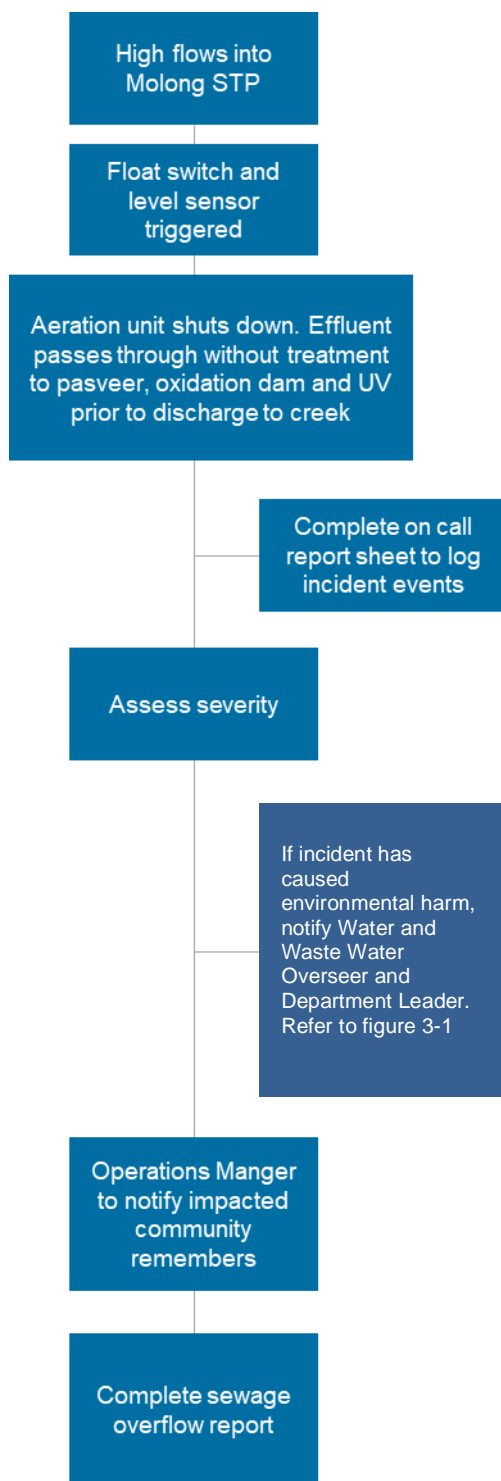


Figure 3-4 Incident Response – Molong STP overflow

4. Training and review

4.1 Training

Personnel involved in sewage operations undertake a range of training to assist in the response to potential incidents and to test the adequacy of incident response procedures and plans. Details of the training and testing of the PIRMP is provided in Table 4-1.

Table 4-1 Incident Response Training

Type of Training	Personnel Involved	Frequency	Records
Overflow clean up	New Sewer staff	On-the-job for first 6 months prior to going on the On Call roster	Nil
NSW Officer of Water Part 1 – Water Treatment Operations	Sewer Operators	Once	Human Resources
NSW Officer of Water Part 2 – Advanced Treatment	Sewer Operators	Once	Human Resources
Confined space	Sewer staff	As required by training provider	Human Resources
Toolbox meetings	Sewer staff	Fortnightly	Minutes
PIRMP test	Relevant Sewer staff	Annual	Minutes
Incident debrief	Personnel involved in incident Independent chair	Within one month of an incident	Minutes

4.2 PIRMP Review

The guidelines require the PIRMP to be reviewed annually. The PIRMP will be updated when there is a material change to operations including but not limited to:

- Modification of EPL 1623
- Changes in standard operating procedures referred to in this PIRMP
- Completion of Water Quality Management Plan risk assessment for licensed sites
- Change in legislative requirements
- Recommendations arising from an incident debrief, emergency drill or emergency simulation exercise.

The responsibility for reviewing the PIRMP is the Coordinator – Water Utilities.

Records of PIRMP review and testing is provided in Table 4-2.

An update of the PIRMP would trigger all staff to undergo refresher training as part of toolbox meetings as per Table 4-1.

Table 4-2 PIRMP review and test

Issue	Date	Reviewed by	Description
PIRMP Review			
1	August 2012	Council Sewer personnel GHD	Initial document prepared to meet the PIRMP guidelines
2	August 2019	Council Sewer personnel GHD	Create a separate PIRMP for the Molong Sewage Treatment Scheme Removal of references to transferred EPLs General PIRMP update
3	March 2020	Council Sewer personnel GHD	General PIRMP update Revision of Incident Response flow charts
4	July 2024	Council Sewer personnel	Council contact details update Revision of Incident Response flow charts
5	May 2025	Council Sewer personnel	Council contact details update
PIRMP Testing			
1	1 August 2019	Council Sewer personnel GHD	PIRMP desktop scenario test with Sewer personnel
2	March 2020	Council Sewer personnel GHD	PIRMP desktop scenario test with Sewer personnel
3	July 2024	Council Sewer personnel	PRIMP desktop scenario for a sewer spill Thistle St SPS
4	May 2025	Council Sewer personnel	PRIMP desktop scenario for a AC rising mains rupture in Molong

Appendices

Appendix A - Incident reporting forms



MOLONG SEWERAGE SCHEME

SEWERAGE OVERFLOW REPORT

This form is to be completed by the Duty Operator in the event of sewerage surcharge to the Molong Creek or tributaries or surcharge from the system.

1. Surcharge to the Molong Creek or tributaries.

- Location.....
.....
- Cause of Surcharge.....
.....
.....
- Action taken to stop surcharge.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
- Estimated duration & quantity: Time: Quantity:.....
- Clean up action taken.....
- Sample taken; one downstream & one upstream of surcharge.....
..... Time:.....
- Sample sent to:.....
.....

Samples to be tested for dissolved oxygen, pH, P, N, chlorophyll-a, turbidity and faecal bacteria.

2. Surcharge from System

- Location

- Cause of surcharge

- Action taken to stop surcharge

- Estimated duration of surcharge.....

- Clean up action taken.....

- Assessment of — BOD & Suspended Solids

Reported By.....Date:.....

Report received and entered in database by:

Date:

Test results received and entered in database by:

Date:

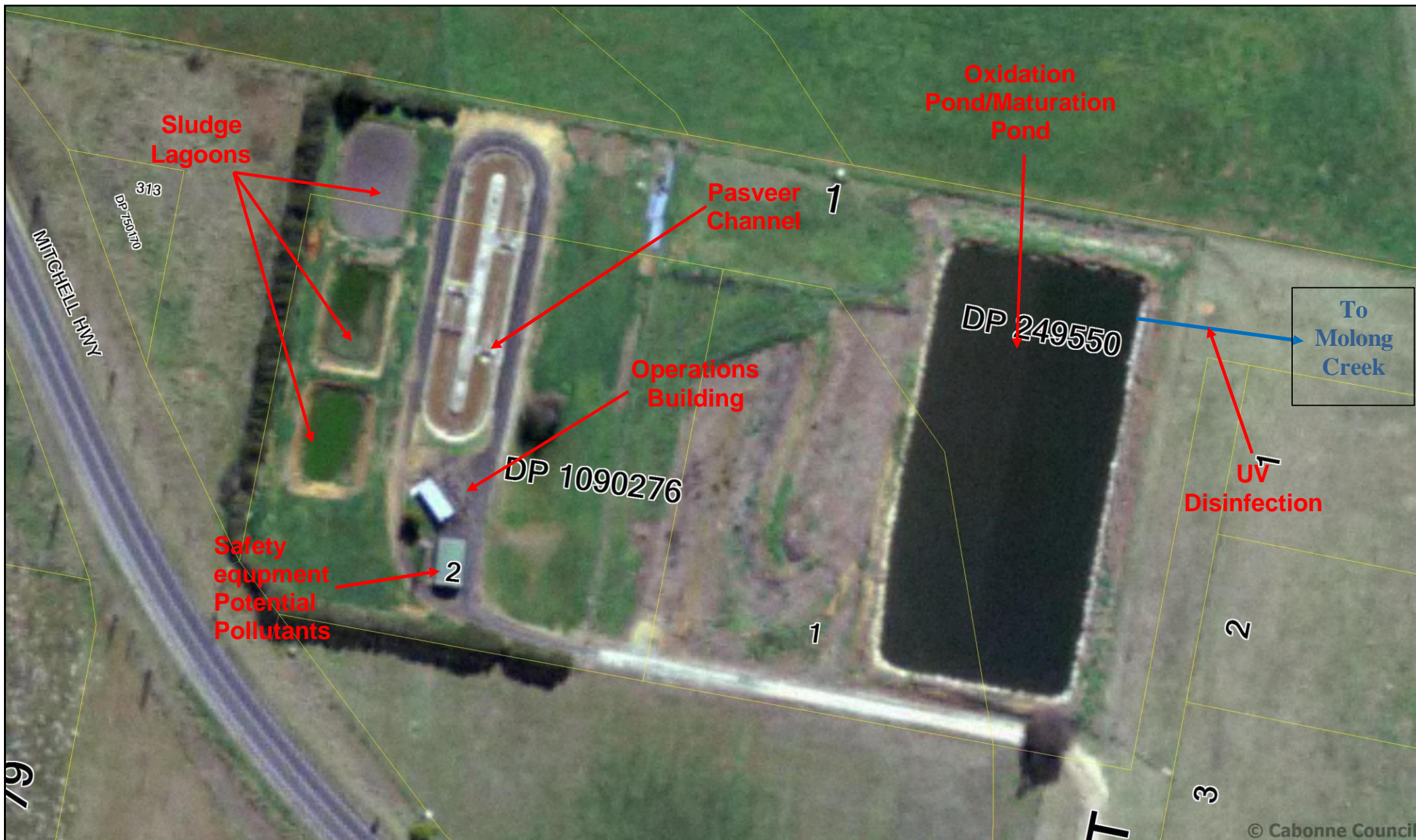
Any further Action Required?

.....

Department Leader – Water Utilities

Date:.....

Appendix B - Maps



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Important Notice!

This map is not a precise survey document. Accurate locations can only be determined by a survey on the ground.

This information has been prepared for Council's internal purposes and for no other purpose. No statement is made about the accuracy or suitability of the information for use for any purpose (whether the purpose has been notified to Council or not). While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this data, neither the Cabonne Council nor the Department of Lands makes any representations or warranties about its accuracy, reliability, completeness or suitability for any particular purpose and disclaims all responsibility and all liability (including without limitation, liability in negligence) for all expenses, losses, damages (including indirect or consequential damage) and costs which you might incur as a result of the data being inaccurate or incomplete in any way and for any reason.

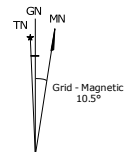
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Important

This map was produced on the GEOCENTRIC DATUM OF AUSTRALIA 1994 (GDA94), which has superseded the Australian Geodetic Datum of 1984 (AGD66/84). Heights are referenced to the Australia Height Datum (AHD) heights. For most practical purposes GDA94 coordinates and satellite derived (GPS) coordinates based on the World Geodetic Datum 1984 (WGS84) are the same.

True North, Grid North and Magnetic North are shown diagrammatically for the centre of the Cabonne Local Government Area. Magnetic North is correct for 2001 moving easterly by 0.04° in about five years.



Aerial Photography:

Contour Interval:

Projection: MGA94 Zone 55

Cost:

Date: Tuesday, 06 May 2025

Molong STP

Map Scale: 1:1,197 at A4
Map Zoom: 339.7 m

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Document Status

Revision	Author	Reviewer		Approved for Issue		
		Name	Signature	Name	Signature	Date
0	B Foster	D Scott	<i>*D Scott</i>	D Mees	<i>*D Mees</i>	3/09/2019
1	G Rogers	D Scott	<i>D Scott</i>	D Mees	<i>D Mees</i>	20/05/2020
2	Nadun Wishvanath	Matthew Christensen		Matthew Christensen		22/07/2024
3	Nadun Wishvanath	David McRae	<i>D.B. McRae</i>	Matthew Christensen	<i>Matthew Christensen</i>	09/05/2025

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