

**What is “the Environment”?**

The environment means components of the earth, including:

- **Land, air and water**
- **Any layer of the atmosphere**
- **Any organic or inorganic matter and any living organism**
- **Human-made or modified structures and areas**

**Harm to the environment**

Harm to the environment includes any direct or indirect alteration of the environment that has the effect of degrading the environment and, without limiting the generality of the above, includes any act or omission that results in pollution.

It is important to remember that the “environment” is very broadly defined and an incident that only results in harm to a person or manmade structures could nevertheless be an environmental incident.

Harm to the environment is material if:

- a) It involves actual or potential harm to the health or safety of human beings or to an ecosystem that is not trivial; or
- b) It results in actual or potential loss or property damage, or amounts in aggregate, exceeding \$10,000 (or such other amount as is prescribed by state regulations)

This is a very low threshold:

1. No actual harm is required, only threatened harm
2. The harm does not need to be significant, but only non-trivial
3. The \$10,000 measure (which includes any clean-up costs) is a separate and independent test for materiality and an incident may be reportable under (a) even if it does not meet (b).

**Pollution incidents and the requirements to report**

A 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 site.

Any pollution incident causing or threatening material harm must be immediately reported to all relevant authorities.

**Relevant Authorities**

The relevant authority means any of the following:

- a) The appropriate state regulatory authority
- b) If the EPA is not the appropriate regulatory authority – the EPA
- c) If the EPA is not the appropriate regulatory authority – the local authority for the area in which the pollution incident occurs
- d) Each States Ministry of Health
- e) Each States WorkCover/Worksafe Authority
- f) Each States Fire and Rescue
- g) Each Sites Local Council

 <b>ALLIED PINNACLE</b>	<b>Cowra WHSE-001 Cowra Pollution Incident Response Management Plan</b>	Version No:	<b>V04</b>
		Issued:	<b>16.05.2022</b>
		Next Review	<b>May 2023</b>

### Relevant information

The relevant information about a pollution incident required must be provided to the relevant authority consists of the following:

- The time, date, nature, duration and location of the incident
- The location of the place where pollution is occurring or is likely to occur
- The nature, the estimated quantity or volume and the concentration of any pollutants involved, if known
- The circumstances in which the incident occurred (including the cause of the incident, if known) and
- The action taken or proposed to be taken to deal with the incident and any resulting pollution or threatened pollution, if known

If any of the relevant information is not known when the initial notification is made to the relevant authority, but becomes known afterwards, that information must be notified immediately after it becomes known.

### Assessing whether an incident must be reported, and how to report

As soon as a person becomes aware of a pollution incident, it must be immediately reported if it causes or threatens material harm to the environment.

In considering whether or not an incident must be reported, a person must consider:


The likely impacts from the incident for example:

Are they trivial only, with no real risk of becoming anything more than trivial and not expected to result in \$10,000 of property damage or clean up costs? E.g. a spill of 1 tonne of flour in the premises car park, which can be cleaned up quickly and cheaply.

Are they trivial at the moment, but with the potential to become more than trivial? E.g. a spill of 20 tonnes of flour onto a dry riverbed that could take a day for site staff to clean up, when wet weather is imminently expected which could cause the river to fill and to carry the flour downstream.

Has any property damage been caused by the incident? What is the likely cost of the damage, combined with anticipated clean up cost – is it expected to be \$10,000 or more?

How should the incident be cleaned up and what are the likely costs of the clean up (are they likely to be \$10,000 or more?).

 <b>ALLIED PINNACLE</b>	<b>Cowra WHSE-001 Cowra Pollution Incident Response Management Plan</b>	Version No:	<b>V04</b>
		Issued:	<b>16.05.2022</b>
		Next Review	<b>May 2023</b>

**Contact Details – Relevant Authority**

If the pollution incident presents an immediate threat to human health or property, call Triple Zero (000).

If the incident does not require an initial combat agency, or once Triple Zero has been contacted, notify the relevant authorities in the following order:

<b>Relevant Authority</b>	<b>Contact Details</b>
Environmental Protection Authority	Environmental Phone Line – 131 555
Cowra Council	02 6340 2120 or 0419 219 231
Ministry of Health NSW	General – 1300 066 055 Cowra 02 63409100
Safework NSW	13 10 50
Fire and Rescue NSW	1300 729 579


**Contact with Neighbours and the Local Community**

After raising an alarm and ensure that the emergency services are notified if required, the Site Manager or Designated person, if required, will contact the neighbouring properties of the incident by phone or in person.

Note: due to the location of the site the closest resident is approximately more than 500 metres away.

Advice neighbours to standby for further instructions by NSW Police or Fire Brigade Officers if required.

Also, advise neighbours to close windows and doors and remain inside for incidents involving the emission of air pollutants or chemical leaks.

 <b>ALLIED PINNACLE</b>	<b>Cowra WHSE-001 Cowra Pollution Incident Response Management Plan</b>	Version No:	<b>V04</b>
		Issued:	<b>16.05.2022</b>
		Next Review	<b>May 2023</b>

---