



# **POLLUTION INCIDENT RESPONSE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**for the**

## **MERRIWA WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY (Merriwa Landfill)**

**PUBLIC (WEB) VERSION**

**REVISION 2**

**30 June 2018**

Upper Hunter Shire Council  
135 Liverpool Street, SCONE  
NSW 2337

## **Purpose of the Pollution Incident Response Management Plan:**

**Upper Hunter Shire Council (UHSC)** has prepared a Pollution Incident Response Management Plan (PIRMP) for the **Merriwa Waste Management Facility (landfill)** located on **Depot Road, Merriwa**.

The PIRMP contains details on the site-specific actions that **UHSC** have or will, (when required as a result of a significant incident), put in place to improve the way the pollution incidents is reported, managed and communicated to the general community.

These actions meet the requirements introduced by the Protection of the Environment Legislation Amendment Act 2011 and the Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Amendment (Pollution Incident Response Management Plan) Regulation, 2012.

The PIRMP aims to ensure there is:

- comprehensive and timely communication about a pollution incident to staff at the premises, the Environmental Protection Authority, other relevant authorities specified by the Act, and people outside the facility who may be affected by the impacts of a significant pollution incident.
- control of the risk of a pollution incident at the facility by requiring identification of risks and the development of planned pre-emptive actions to minimise and manage these risks; and
- a plan, identifying persons responsible for implementing it, and ensuring that the plan is regularly tested for accuracy, currency and suitability.

## **Contact Details for Immediate Notification of a Pollution Incident:**

Under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997, it is a requirement that all pollution incidents are reported to the EPA, NSW Health, Fire & Rescue NSW, WorkCover NSW and the local Council when material harm to the environment is caused or threatened.

If the incident presents an immediate threat to human health or property '000' will be called initially as Fire & Rescue NSW, the NSW Police and the NSW Ambulance Service are the first responders responsible for controlling and containing incidents.

If the incident does not require an initial combat agency, or once the '000' call has been made, notification to the following authorities in the listed order should occur. The 24-hour hotline for each authority is given:

- NSW Environment Protection Authority Environment Line - 131 555
- Ministry of Health via the local Public Health Unit 6764 8000
- WorkCover 131 050
- Council (Environmental Services) 6740 1199
- Fire & Rescue NSW (if not called for initial emergency response) 1300 729 579

### **Communicating with Neighbours & the Community:**

Where reasonably possible, early warning and regular updates to owners and occupiers of premises who may be affected by an incident occurring at the **Merriwa Waste Management Facility** will be notified as follows:

#### ***Properties surrounding the Facility:***

Should a neighbour be required to take actions due to an impending or actual pollution risk, a call to the telephone (landline and / or mobile), of the resident or business where a pollution impact may be experienced, will be made by a **UHSC staff member** where contact numbers have been made available to **UHSC** in advance.

In the event of a **major** pollution incident, residents or businesses may be further contacted by an **emergency services representative**, via direct door-knock or other means, where an evacuation or critical safety actions are necessary.

An 'all-clear' telephone call will also be made to residents when the incident is no longer of concern and/or normality has been restored.

#### ***Wider Community:***

Depending on the nature, scale and timing of the incident, **UHSC** will also place routine notices and updates on its website and provide information regarding the incident via the local Media.

### **Further Information:**

**The PIRMP** has been developed to comply with legislative obligations and **is not an indication of increased pollution** risk from the facility. **UHSC** welcomes any further enquiry about the PIRMP, which can be made by calling Council directly on **(02) 6540 1100** during office hours **OR (02) 6540 1199** to report any **after hours emergency related to the site**.