

# MT ARTHUR COAL

## POLLUTION INCIDENT RESPONSE MANAGEMENT PLAN (CONCISE)

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Version No.	Date Published	Details
1	7/9/2012	Pollution Incident Response Management Plan (Concise).
2	4/11/2013	Contact details updated in section 2.
3	25/2/2014	Role titles and contact details updated in section 2.
4	11/03/2014	Included contact details for the Mines Inspector in Section 2. Changes to the title of Section 3 from “Community Incidents Alerts and Updates” to “Communicating with neighbours and the local community”. Minor word and formatting changes to Section 3 and accountability made more visible.
5	17/04/2014	Change to contact details in Section 2.
6	8/12/2014	Change to contact details in Section 2.
7	19/05/2016	Role titles, internal management plan references, contact details and web links updated in sections 1, 2 and 3.

## 1 Introduction

This Pollution Incident Response Management Plan (PIRMP) is a requirement of Part 5.7A of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEO Act). The objective of the PIRMP is to:

- Ensure comprehensive and timely communication about a pollution to staff at the premises, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), other relevant authorities specified in the POEO Act and people outside the facility who may be affected by the impacts of the pollution incident;
- Minimise and control the risk of a pollution incident at the facility; 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.

This concise PIRMP contains relevant information that must be made available to the public, including the procedures for contacting the relevant authorities and procedures for communicating with the community in the event of a pollution incident for which there is a risk of 'material harm to the environment' within the meaning of section 147 of the POEO Act.

The complete PIRMP requirements are documented within Mt Arthur Coal's Pollution Incident Response Management Plan NEC-STE-MTP-009, supported by the Emergency Management Plan NEC-STE-MTP-006 and Incident Management Plan NEC-STE-MTP-001 and were developed to meet the requirements of section 153C of the POEO Act and the *Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 2009* (POEO(G) Regulation).

## 2 Reporting a Pollution Incident to the Relevant Authorities

In the event of any pollution incident site personnel must notify their supervisor, who will then contact the Lead Environment Execution or delegate via the 24 hour Environment Enquiry Line on 1800 174 568.

The Lead Environment Execution or delegate is responsible for reporting any pollutant incident for which there is a risk of 'material harm to the environment' within the meaning of section 147 of the POEO Act immediately to the following authorities by telephone in the order listed below:

- Environment Protection Authority (EPA) – Environment Line 131 555
- Public Health Unit (Newcastle) – 02 4924 6477; after hours ask for Public Health Officer on call as this diverts to John Hunter Hospital
- WorkCover – 131 050
- Muswellbrook Shire Council – 02 6549 3700
- Fire and Rescue NSW – 000
- Department of Planning & Environment – 02 6575 3405 or 0403 058 777
- Department of Mines (notification only required for incidents that occur within MPL263) – 02 4931 6666 or 0408 938 711

'Immediately' has its ordinary dictionary meaning of promptly and without delay.

This initial report must include the following information:

- Time, date and duration of the incident;
- Duration of the event;
- Locations where pollution is occurring or is likely to occur;
- Nature, estimated quantity or volume and concentration of any pollutants involved, if known\*;
- Circumstances in which the incident occurred (including the cause of the incident, if known)\*; and
- Action taken or proposed to be taken to deal with the incident and any resulting pollution or threatened pollution, if known\*.

*\* If this information is not known to the person when the initial notification is made but becomes known afterwards, that information must be notified immediately after it becomes known to each authority listed above.*

An EPA protocol for notifying the relevant authorities is available for reference at <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/pollution/notificationprotocol.htm>.

### 3 Communicating with neighbours and the local community

Mt Arthur Coal is committed to providing early warnings and regular updates to the community about any pollution incident related to its mining operations. These early warnings and updates, which may include instructions to close windows, remain inside or avoid the use of water in creeks or rivers, will ensure the community has the information needed to minimise any risk of harm from the incident.

Depending on the nature and extent of the incident, the Area General Manager or delegate will make the decision on whether community pollution alerts are required. Mt Arthur Coal will advise the community using one or more of the methods described in Table 1:

**Table 1 – Methods for Communication to Community for alerts and updates**

No.	Method	Accountable
1	Personal phone calls	Senior Manager Corporate Affairs or Delegate
2	Personal visits	Senior Manager Corporate Affairs or Delegate
3	Emails to community representatives	Asset President or Delegate
4	Local radio station announcements	Asset President or Delegate
5	Media news stories	Asset President or Delegate
6	Newspaper advertisements	Senior Manager Corporate Affairs or Delegate
7	Letter box drops and newsletters	Senior Manager Corporate Affairs or Delegate

A contact list of nearby premises and community and government organisations is maintained in the stakeholder database.