



Pollution Event Response

Public Extract

Applicability

ARTC Network

Publication Requirement

External

Primary Source

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

This Public Extract of ARTC's Pollution Event Response Work Instruction has been prepared for online publication in accordance with ARTC's obligations under *Part 5.7A of the NSW Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEO Act) and *Part 3A of the NSW Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 2009* (POEO Regulation).

This Public Extract applies to all states ARTC operates in and contains a reproduction of content drawn from ARTC's Pollution Event Response Work Instruction to address NSW legislative requirements.

2 Event Notification

2.1 Internal Notification

Reporting of pollution events shall be undertaken in accordance with [COR-PR-034](#).

2.1.1 External Notification

External notification of a pollution event must occur if actual or potential material environmental harm occurs or triggers the requirements in Table 1. External notification of pollution events is undertaken by the ARTC Event Owner.

Requirements for external notification to authorities of pollution events vary between Australian states. State requirements for immediate external notification are detailed in ARTC's Pollution Event Response Work Instruction and are built into the Horizon 360 Event module.

Where possible, the Event Owner should consult with the relevant Environment Advisor to assist in determining if a pollution event requires external notification. However, if you are unsure if the pollution event requires external notification, consider that it does and initiate the notification process.

In the instance a pollution event has occurred across State boundaries, external notification is required to both state authorities where the triggers in Table 1 are met.

Contact telephone numbers for the designated authorities in each State are available in [Appendix 1](#).

Table 1: External Notification

		New South Wales	South Australia	Western Australia	Victoria	Queensland
Act		Protection of the Environment Operations Act, 1997	Environment Protection Act, 1993	Environmental Protection Act, 1986	Environment Protection Act, 2017	Environmental Protection Act, 1994
Material Harm	Clean-up exceeding ¹ (\$)	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
	And/or	Actual or potential harm to the health or safety of human beings or to ecosystems that is not trivial	Pollution consisting of an environmental nuisance of a high impact or on a wide scale	Environmental harm that is neither trivial nor negligible	An actual adverse effect on human health or the environment that is not negligible.	Environmental harm that is not trivial or negligible in nature, extent or context
	And/or		Actual or potential harm to the health or safety of human beings or to ecosystems that is not trivial		Involves an actual adverse effect on an area of high conservation value or of special significance	
Responsibility to Report		(S.5.7 and Lic S.R2) Persons Carrying-out the Activity Employer of Persons Occupier of Premises	(S83) Person carrying-out an activity (S83A) Owner or occupier of the land where there is a contamination of underground water	(S72) Occupier of the premises	(S32) The person who is engaging or engaged in an activity that results in a notifiable event.	(S320) Person carrying-out the activity

	New South Wales	South Australia	Western Australia	Victoria	Queensland
Reporting to EPA	Source: EP Licence	Source: Environment Protection Act, 1993	Source: Environmental Protection Act, 1986	Source: Environment Protection Act, 2017	Source: Environmental Protection Act, 1994
Phone call²	Immediately ³ to designated authorities	As soon as practicable to EPA	As soon as practicable to DER	As soon as practicable to EPA	N/A – Not legislated
Written	Within 7 days	As required by the EPA	As soon as practicable	As soon as practicable	Within 24 hours

1 – The cost to prevent, make good or mitigate impact to the environment

2 - Contact numbers in Appendix 1

3 – Immediately: promptly and without delay

2.2 Notification to Affected Parties

The extensive geographic nature of the ARTC network means that it is not possible to define a list of affected parties or neighbours that may require notification. ARTC will however initiate notification to owners and occupiers of affected premises, including early warnings and regular updates, when and as required, using one or a number of the following methods:

- Door knocking;
- Community meetings;
- Radio and TV messaging;
- Website information;
- Written correspondence i.e. e-mail or letter; or
- Other communication techniques employed by emergency services and/or a combat agency controller.

Notification will be initiated in consultation with emergency services and any relevant Group Executive or General Manager in consultation with the General Manager Corporate Affairs. The need for notification and the method utilised will be determined by the severity of the event, number of affected parties and the sensitivity of the surrounding environment.

Access to the rail corridor is restricted and subject to site controls such as Personal Protective Equipment, Rail Safety Certifications and Pre-Work Briefs. In the instance of an event relating to rollingstock operators and/or contractors, the emergency response would be initiated to the extent practicable in accordance with their policies and procedures.

Appendix 1 – Emergency Contact Details

Pollution Hotlines

State	Agency	Contact
Queensland	EPA/DEHP	1300 130 372
South Australia	EPA	(08) 8204 2004
Victoria	EPA	1300 372 842 (03) 96952777
Western Australia	EPA	1300 784 782
NSW	EPA	131 555
	Relevant Local Authority	https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/find-my-council
	Ministry of Health	http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/Pages/phus.aspx
	SafeWork NSW	131 050
	Fire and Rescue NSW	1300 729 579

Train Transit Manager

Location	Contact
North NSW & QLD	(02) 4902 9410
South NSW & North VIC	(02) 6930 5311
West VIC, SA & WA	(08) 8217 4540