

POLLUTION INCIDENT RESPONSE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2024

YAHS - SEWERAGE PLANT

DESCRIPTION OF PLANT

Yanco Agricultural High School is a NSW Public High School with a maximum capacity of 320 students. All students are boarders. The school has its own sewerage plant and water treatment plant and does not rely on these services being provided by Leeton Shire Council.

The sewerage plant is located on an elevated mound some 400m from the nearest building. It was designed for a population of 2400, but the school has only a maximum of 420 people at any one time.

Sewerage and other wastes are pumped to the plant through a series of rising mains and big electrical pumps. Each pump has a back-up that can be turned on if the main pump fails. The treatment works are computer controlled and the treated effluent water is moved under gravity through pipeline which has an outlet on the school's main internal irrigation supply channel. Here the treated effluent mixes with the irrigation water and this is used to water the ovals and playing fields. Signs indicate that the water is a mixture of irrigation and effluent water.

Levee banks will be built nearby to contain dewatering bags prior to draining settlement ponds.

MAP

See below.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS

- OVERFLOW of raw sewage.
- ELECTRICAL MALFUNCTION at the plant.
- FLOODING of settlement ponds or surrounding areas. Flooding of the settlement ponds is not an issue as was shown in the floods of March 2012 and November 2022. However, in November 2022, floodwater came close to the lift pumps at the base of the treatment plant.
- PIPELINE DAMAGE
- HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS
- CONFINED SPACES

RISK MITIGATION

PPE

- PPE equipment such as masks, gloves, protective suits, helmets and confined space equipment are available at the plant.

EMERGENCY CONTROLS

- The plant has been designed to ensure there is no possibility of overflow of raw sewerage.
- Floatation devices and safety ropes are installed.
- Fire suppression equipment is installed.
- Gas measuring equipment is available.
- Cut off valves are in place to stop or divert the direction of the outflows.
- Back up pumps and standby pumps are an integral part of this process and is readily available if needed.

Updated: 07/12/2023

- Chemical MSDS's are located at the plant office and the Maintenance office. Inventory of chemicals used at the plant is kept in the Maintenance Office
- If there is an electrical malfunction at the plant, alarms are activated and trained personnel attend to the problem.
- Temporary levee banks were built up around the lift well pumps in 2022 floods and successfully diverted water. The school intends to build a permanent levee bank to better protect this point against future flood waters.

PROCEDURES AND STAFF TRAINING

- Training is carried out in line with statutory requirements.
- Only persons with confined space and chemical handling training work on the site.
- Staff overseeing the plant have undertaken formal training in wastewater treatment.
- The sewerage plant is monitored every day and records kept of inflow and outflow and water samples are regularly tested by CSU in Wagga and reports are sent to the EPA with the annual licence renewal. If any problems arise management are notified immediately and further action considered.
- Routine maintenance is undertaken to ensure there are as few problems as possible.
- Excavation near the supply and drainage pipelines is carefully planned and monitored.
- The chemicals used at the plant are in approved containers and these are monitored on a daily basis.

MINIMISING HARM TO PERSONS ON PREMISES

- The school has an Emergency Management Plan that would be activated in the event of a pollution incident. The school would assess the need to evacuate/lockdown students, staff and residents depending on type of emergency.

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN DURING OR IMMEDIATELY AFTER A POLLUTION INCIDENT

The welfare of our staff and students would be paramount in our response to any incident which might arise with the plant and actions would be taken in line with the need to reduce the impact of the incident.

A major malfunction/ shutdown of the plant would significantly affect the school and its residents and the school's Emergency Management Plan would be activated if evacuation was required.

In the event of a pollution incident:

- The school would notify:
 - the EPA and follow any instruction given to minimise the hazard.
 - the Department of Education's Incident Report and Support Hotline and follow instructions.
 - Other relevant contacts as required (see contact list)
- Emergency Management Plan would be activated and the situation assessed to determine if full or partial evacuation was required.
- Hay bales and/or levee banks would be put in place to contain pollution.
- Local septic services would be contacted to remove excess sewage (eg from lift pump well).
- Portaloos would be brought on site and school toilets shut down.
- Communicating with neighbours and the community
 - The school is set on 800 acres, and sewerage plant is at least 2kms from our nearest neighbour, so problems with the plant are not likely to affect neighbours.
 - Neighbours and the community would be notified following advice from local authorities or the EPA.

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YAHS - PIGGERY EFFLUENT

DESCRIPTION OF PLANT

Yanco Agricultural High School is a NSW Public High School with a maximum capacity of 320 students. All students are boarders. As the focus of the school is on agriculture there are many livestock enterprises and one of these is a 20-sow piggery.

The pig pens are hosed out every day and the resultant effluent drains to a large underground concrete tank. From there it is pumped into a specially designed trailer. The trailer is towed to the farm paddocks and the effluent is drained as the tractor moves along. The effluent acts as a fertiliser.

No chemicals are used in this process.

MAP

See below.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS

EFFLUENT SPILL from trailer tipping or leaking

PUMP FAILURE

CONFINED SPACES

RISK MITIGATION

PPE

- PPE equipment such as masks, gloves, protective suits.

EMERGENCY CONTROLS

- Dual wheels limit the impact of a flat tyre and tyre pressure in trailer tyres monitored daily.
- Failsafe system in place to ensure the valve on the back of the trailer is not accidentally left open.
- Back up pumps are available if main pump fails.
- Speed limits in place around school grounds.

PROCEDURES AND STAFF TRAINING

- Training is carried out in line with statutory requirements.
- Only persons with Confined Space training are permitted to enter the tank.
- Quantities of effluent are tabulated daily.
- Staff driving the tractor are trained/licenced tractor operators.

MINIMISING HARM TO PERSONS ON PREMISES

- The school has an Emergency Management Plan that would be activated in the event of a pollution incident. The school would assess the need to evacuate/lockdown students, staff and residents depending on type of emergency.

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN DURING OR IMMEDIATELY AFTER A POLLUTION INCIDENT

The welfare of our staff and students would be paramount in our response to any incident which might arise with the plant and actions would be taken in line with the need to reduce the impact of

the incident. A major spill may impact the school and its residents and the school's Emergency Management Plan would be activated.

In the event of a pollution incident:

- The school would notify:
 - the EPA immediately and follow any instruction given to minimise the hazard.
 - the Department of Education's Incident Report and Support Hotline and follow instructions.
 - Other relevant contacts as required (see contact list)
- Emergency Management Plan would be activated and the situation assessed to determine if full or partial evacuation was required.
- Hay bales and/or levee banks would be put in place to contain the pollution.
- If a spill occurred near a water source, the contaminated water would be isolated (eg close channel gates or dam it) pending testing and advice from EPA.
- Communicating with neighbours and the community
 - The school is set on 800 acres, so spills are not likely to affect neighbours.
 - Neighbours and the community would be notified following advice from local authorities or the EPA.

POLLUTION INCIDENT RESPONSE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2024**YAHS - EMERGENCY CONTACTS****YANCO AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL**

Principal	Marni Milne	02 69511 500 0418 249 638
Business/Services Manager	Katrina Spencer	02 6951 1522 0422 576 838
Farm Foreman (Rel)	Roy Bandy	02 6951 1538 0427 498 788
Maintenance Supervisor (Rel)	Andrew Day	02 6951 1517 0427 423 879

In the event of a major malfunction or pollution incident, the Principal or their delegate will contact the following agencies as required / appropriate to the situation:

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Incident Report and Support Hotline	1800 811 523
Director Educational Leadership	02 6937 3809
Security unit	1300 880 021
Media Unit	02 7814 1559

EMERGENCY SERVICES

LEETON POLICE	000	6953 1399
LEETON FIRE BRIGADE	000	6953 6786
RURAL FIRE SERVICE	000	6966 7800
AMBULANCE	000	

EPA

GRIFFITH	02 6969 0700
POLLUTION INCIDENTS	131555

LEETON COUNCIL 6953 0911.

LEETON SES 6955 9455

NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE 1300 072 757

STATE WATER 1800 353 104

WORKCOVER 131050

PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT OPERATIONS ACT (POEO ACT) 1977

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YAHS - SITE MAP



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