

0.0 Mudgee Sewer Treatment Plant Emergency Repairs

REPORT BY THE MANAGER WATER AND SEWER AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
TO 26 MARCH 2021 EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
GOV400088, SEW200074, SEW200031

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **receive the report by the Manager Water and Sewer and Chief Financial Officer on the Mudgee Sewer Treatment Plant Emergency Repairs;**
2. **note that the matter raised in this report has been deemed an emergency and needs to be dealt with urgently as per Clause 3.8 of the Code of Meeting Practice;**
3. **note that the General Manager exercised his authority to approve emergency works under section 3.1 a of his Delegation of Authority as follows:**
 - 3.1 **emergency works to assess, bypass, and prepare for rectification of the failed infrastructure at the Mudgee Sewer Treatment Plant for an amount not greater than \$100,000;**
4. **authorise emergency repair works at the Mudgee Sewer Treatment Plant, as set out in this report;**
5. **amend the 2020/21 budget to allocate \$500,000 for emergency repair works at the Mudgee Sewer Treatment Plant, funded from Sewer Fund Reserves;**
6. **authorise exemption from tendering for the procurement of all emergency repair and rectification works at the Mudgee Sewer Treatment Plant, in accordance with Clause 55(3)(i) of Local Government Act 1993, due to the urgent nature of the works to immediately reduce public health risk and EPA breach risks.**

Executive summary

An infrastructure failure at the Mudgee Sewer Treatment Plant has resulted in the need to discharge untreated sewage to the Cudgegong River. This report advises Council on the incident, and recommends a solution to rectify the failure, minimising further environmental and health risks caused by the incident, and allocate appropriate budgets to implement the solution.

Disclosure of Interest

Nil.

Detailed report

Failure of both pipes between the inlet works and aeration tanks at Mudgee Sewer Treatment Plant occurred on Wednesday 24 March 2021. The failure of infrastructure at Mudgee Sewer Treatment Plant has resulted in the need to discharge untreated sewage to the Cudgegong River. The point of discharge to the river is adjacent to the Putta Bucca Sewage Pump Station.

Discharge of untreated sewage to Cudgegong River commenced at approximately 6pm Wednesday 24 March. Putta Bucca Sewer Pump Station remains isolated (as of 11am Friday 26 March), allowing discharge of untreated sewage. The discharge will continue until we get a temporary bypass arrangement in place at Mudgee Sewer Treatment Plant or fix the pipework failures.

A temporary bypass arrangement is currently being installed at Mudgee Sewer Treatment Plant with the aim of ceasing discharge of raw sewage to the Cudgegong and recommencing treatment of sewage at Mudgee Sewer Treatment Plant today, Friday 26 March.

To repair the pipeline failures, total pipeline replacement is required. Excavations are currently underway to expose and remove the existing damaged pipework, to allow for urgent replacement of the pipework over the course of the weekend.

Community Plan implications

Theme	Protecting Our Natural Environment
Goal	Provide total water cycle management
Strategy	Maintain and manage waste water quality to meet Environmental Protection Agency standards

Strategic implications

Council Strategies

Pollution Incident Response Management Plan

Council Policies

Procurement Policy

Code of Meeting Practice

Legislation

Local Government Act 1993:

- Division 2 – Other provisions concerning Council Meetings;
- Section 335 – Functions of the General Manager
- Section 55 – Tendering

Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997

Public Health Act 2010

Financial implications

A recommendation to amend the budget to allow for repair works up to an amount of \$500,000 is recommended, as well as exemption from tendering for any contracted works over the tendering threshold under Section 55 of the Local Government Act.

It is recommended to fund repair works from Sewer Reserves as most of the works will be capital in nature and there are sufficient funds available to cover the required works.

Rectification cost estimates:

The repair of pipeworks and installation of a bypass are estimated at about \$400,000, with information available at the time of writing this report.

Further works are required to rectify the road, monitor water quality in the river and Gulgong water treatment plant, and to repair associated concrete damage at the Mudgee Sewer Treatment Plant. Total estimated costs are up to \$500,000 at this stage. Should further funds be required, a report or budget amendment through QBR will be brought back to Council.

Budget Year	Operating Performance Ratio	Own Source Revenue	Building & Infrastructure Renewal
2019/20	X	-	✓
Future Years	-	-	-

Associated Risks

The event poses an immediate environmental and health risk that Council is responding to as an emergency event. Council staff are following the Pollution Incident Response Management Plan (PIRMP) and contacting downstream stakeholders via multiple channels including direct phone contact and email contact, media channels and via WaterNSW Early Warning Network System (For water licence holders).

There is a risk that Council will breach the requirements of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 should Council not clean up the raw sewage as promptly as possible, which could result in penalty notice (fines).

Council staff are in contact with NSW EPA, DPIE Water and NSW Health in relation to the event. Alternate water supplies are being utilised for Gulgong.

CLAIRE CAM
MANAGER WATER AND SEWER

LEONIE JOHNSON
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

26 March 2021

Attachments: Nil

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM
GENERAL MANAGER