

Sewer Spills Management Policy

Aim

The purpose of this policy is to clearly define TasWater's commitment to the effective management of its sewerage systems, particularly in relation to the minimisation of the frequency and impact of sewage spills.

Legislation

Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1995 (Cth)

Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994 (Tas)

Public Health Act 1997 (Tas)

Water and Sewerage Industry Act 2008 (Tas)

Definitions

Spill: The escape of untreated sewage from the sewerage system (ie pumping stations, pipes, maintenance holes or overflow structures) to the external environment.

Policy

TasWater is committed to managing its sewerage systems in a compliant, effective and efficient manner and to meeting reasonable environmental and stakeholder expectations for the safe and reliable delivery of sewerage services.

To do this, we will:

- Strive to comply with relevant environmental and public health standards
- Reduce total spills in line with targets set in our Corporate Plan, Customer Service Code and Asset Management Objectives
- Develop tools to support and prioritise decision making regarding sensitivity of receiving environments and impact of spills
- Develop risk, criticality and performance based asset management strategies and plans including renewal, upgrade and maintenance planning
- Implement best practice design principles
- Develop and implement inflow and infiltration abatement plans to minimise wet weather related spills
- Develop and maintain operational response procedures for sewage spills with the aim of minimising environmental and public health impacts
- Implement community awareness programs and utilise intelligent systems to avoid spills and enable early detection and response to spills
- Monitor sewerage system performance including spill frequencies and volumes, reliability, and energy consumption to provide historical data for operational efficiency and system improvements
- Regularly report compliance with the Policy to the EPH Committee.

Responsibilities

The General Manager Asset and Product Management is accountable for implementing and maintaining this Policy.

Associated Documents

Price and Service Plan 2015-18

Tasmanian Water and Sewerage Industry - Customer Service Code

Corporate Plan - Financial Years 2016-18

Strategic Asset Management Plan 2015

Sewage Spill Abatement Strategy

Approved by the Board at its meeting on 27 April 2016.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L. Campbell", written over a horizontal dotted line.

Chairman