

Our Ref: SO32-T00009

29 December 2023

Mr Mick Cassel
Planning Secretary
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta NSW 2124

Dear Mr Cassel

Eurobodalla Southern Storage SSD 7089 – Environmental Incident Report

In accordance with Consent Condition C9 and Appendix 3, please find the following report on the environmental incident as notified to your department on 4th December 2023.

Incident Summary

The Eurobodalla Southern Water Supply Storage (ESWSS) Project experienced extensive rainfall to the site over a 10 day-rainfall period commencing 23/11/2023 and culminating on the 3/12/2023. During this period a total of 216mm of rain fell, as recorded at the Project on-site weather station, with 105mm falling within a 24hr period on the 29th November.

A pre-rainfall inspection by the Construction Contractor Project Senior Environmental Advisor revealed basins and sumps on-site were at full capacity (all were dry) with only a small volume of water held behind the cofferdam wall for Project use.

During the rainfall event the site was able to capture up to 150mm of sediment laden water in sediment basins, cofferdam & in the dam foundation excavation. Beyond the 150mm rainfall event sediment laden water began to overtop the last basin controls and discharge through the neighbouring property's creekline before reaching the Tuross River 1300m downstream from the Project discharge point.

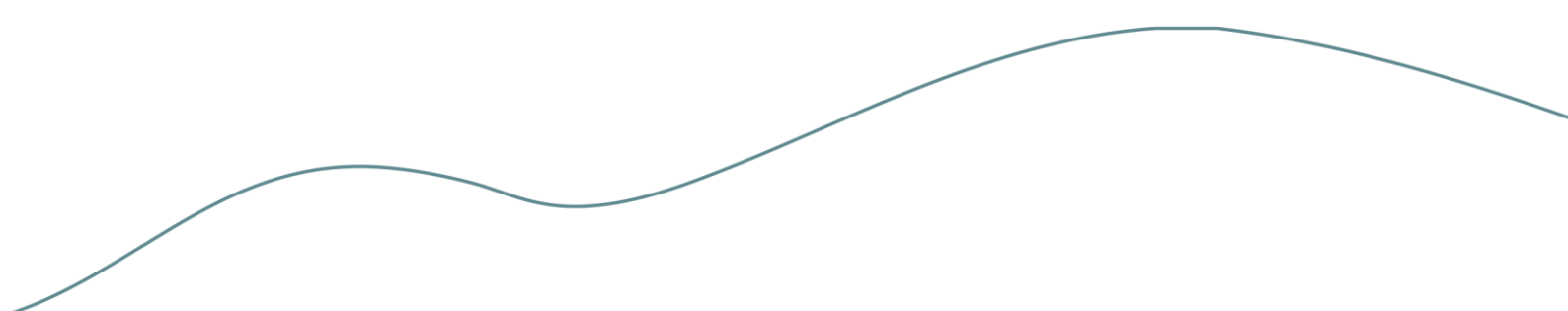
The EPA Pollution hotline were notified that sediment laden water had breached the controls and was discharging from site at 10:50am on the 29/11/2023.

Incident Investigation Outcomes

Cause: Heavy rainfall event

Outcome: Water quality monitoring has been undertaken in response to the event and a report on the results and how these results inform the Triggered Action Response Plan (TARP) outlined in the Construction Soil and Water Management Plan is being prepared for the NSW EPA.

The Construction Contractor Project personnel have worked closely with the EPA in order to release the water still captured in the dam foundation and sediment basins on-site via the projects discharge point, ensuring the water quality objectives outlined in the Project Surface Water Quality Management Plan and the Project Environmental Protection Licence 21767 are met.



In consultation with the EPA, an alternative coagulant called Vital Super Clear has been used. This coagulant was suggested due to its fast-acting properties for coagulation in comparison to gypsum for large bodies of water. Ecotox studies also demonstrated this product to be environmentally safe for sensitive environments. This product had been used successfully on a similar sized body of water on the Western Sydney Airport Project.

Corrective and preventative actions

Review and establish (if required) additional clean water diversion structures to divert clean water to vegetated areas.

Stakeholder communication

EPA Pollution hotline notified of uncontrolled discharge from site 29/11/2023.

Neighbour Nic Clancy – communication in regards to discharge through his property.

Ongoing liaison with EPA regarding treatment and discharge of water caught on site, water quality monitoring results and any required amendments to E&SCP.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any further information.

Yours sincerely



Harvey Lane
Water & Sewer Project Engineer

cc Mr Mark Wisely – Senior Planning Officer – Water Assessments
Michael Wood – Senior Compliance Officer