

Our Ref: SO32-T00009

23 January 2024

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 27th December 2023.

Incident Summary

The Eurobodalla Southern Water Supply Storage (ESWSS) Project experienced extensive rainfall to the site over a 2 day-rainfall period commencing 25/12/2023 and culminating on the 26/12/2023. During this period a total of 181mm of rain fell, as recorded at the Project on-site weather station, with 95mm falling within a one-hour period between 6pm and 7pm on the 25th December.

During this intense rainfall between 6pm and 7pm 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.

Due to the Christmas shutdown period, the EPA Pollution hotline were notified that sediment laden water had breached the controls and was discharging from site on the 27/12/2023 at 4.33pm.

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

In consultation with the EPA, the coagulant called Vital Super Clear is continuing to be used subsequent to its successful use previously on this Project.

Corrective and preventative actions

Due to flooded roads and stormwater damage to haul roads and access tracks the site was secured until it was assessed by the Project Manager and Site Superintendent as safe to enter.

Repair and reinstatement of erosion and sediment controls damaged by the extreme storm event commenced as soon as the site was safe to re-enter due to flooded roads and stormwater damage to haul roads and access tracks.

Project appointed soil conservationist will visit site and prepare an updated erosion and sediment control plan to be implemented by the Project.

Application of coagulant and subsequent discharge of stored water on site unable to be reused has commenced.

Stakeholder communication

EPA Pollution hotline notified of uncontrolled discharge from site 27/12/2023.

Neighbouring property – communication in regards to discharge through 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

