

Environmental Action Plan Summary

Key issues

Key environmental issues that must be considered by all users of the facilities at Tea Gardens Slipway are:

- Water pollution.
- Air pollution
- Land contamination.
- Handling and disposing of dangerous goods.
- Waste management disposal.
- Noise.
- Water usage.

Environmental compliance

The *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEOA) is the main piece of NSW environmental legislation covering water, land, air and noise pollution and waste management.

Breaking environmental law can initiate serious penalties. Even accidents can result in prosecution and penalties. Individuals are required to minimise the risk of an environmental incident by implementing precautionary and control measures.

It is not defensible to claim lack of knowledge about a contravention.

An individual guilty of water pollution under section 120 of the POEOA may be fined up to \$250,000, plus up to \$60,000 per day for a continuing offence. The Association could be fined up to \$1,000,000, plus up to \$120,000 per day for a continuing offence. Alternatively, on-the-spot fines may be issued.

Under no circumstances should a person allow any material to enter the Myall River.

Air Pollution - means emitting any impurities into the air.

Land pollution - Under section 142 of the POEOA, it is an offence to pollute land.

Hazardous materials and waste - When handling hazardous materials and waste, persons must keep in mind that it is an offence to cause any substance to leak, spill or otherwise escape in a manner that harms or is likely to harm the environment (POEOA section 116).

Offensive noise - By law (POEOA sections 139 and 140), individuals must consider our neighbours and their right to complain about excessive noise.

Offensive noise means that by reason of its level, nature, character, quality or the time at which it is made, the noise is harmful or interferes unreasonably with the comfort of people who are outside your premises.

Waste - Under the POEOA, there are heavy penalties for unlawful disposal of waste.

Reporting - If a pollution incident occurs, by law you must report it to a slip operator and he will advise the appropriate regulatory authority. (See Useful Contacts section)

For more information visit www.environment.nsw.gov.au

Managing water quality

To prevent water pollution, individuals must ensure antifouling paint, marine incrustation and other pollutants scraped or water blasted from hulls are not allowed to enter waterways.

As the Tea Gardens Slipway is a self user community facility, the Association requires all vessel owners to sign off on these requirements before their vessel can utilise the new facilities. By signing off on these requirements, all vessel owners are agreeing to comply with the new procedures and at the same time, act as front-line inspectors for those requirements, a form of self-policing. The vessel owner is solely responsible for any related pollution events associated with the use of the slipway.

Individuals must:

- Not work over tidal areas. As the tide level changes which may impact the work area, no work can be undertaken on that part of the vessel that sits within one metre of the river.
- Regularly clean and maintain work areas. The slipway area must be cleaned prior to an approaching tide, and/or prior to persons working on the vessel leaving the site (whichever occurs first).
- Familiarise themselves with the tidal predictions for the period their vessel is being slipped so as they understand how the tides will affect their acceptable work periods.
- Sweep or vacuum all scrapings and other matter and then dispose of this waste material in a lawful manner.

The key to managing water quality is good housekeeping. Individuals must take all possible precautions for capturing waste materials and containing them within the work area so as they do not access the water. For example:

- Time work activities to coincide with tidal water levels.
- Regularly maintain the work areas by keeping them clean and tidy.

Managing air quality

Only sanding equipment fitted with appropriate dust collection bags are to be used.

To reduce air emissions, applying antifouling paints to hulls at this slipway is to only be done by roller or brush.

Consider wind direction, velocity and ambient air temperature. Consider changing your work practices when applying paint, to suit the prevailing conditions.

Hazardous materials and liquid waste

All chemical and other spills should be cleaned up immediately, no matter how small.

Under no circumstances should you hose a chemical spill down a drain or into the water. The general response to spills is:

1. Eliminate the source of the spill immediately if it is safe to do so.
2. Contain the spill. Use the materials in the spill kit to contain the spill and control its flow. If necessary, stop the spill from entering waterways by using a boom, or block the stormwater drain inlets.
3. Clean up the spill promptly. It is important to clean up all spills quickly, even small ones, as they can easily flow into waterways or stormwater drains or be washed there by rain.
4. For major spills, call the Fire Brigade on 000.
5. Store all waste generated from spill clean up in a sealed vessel (limiting emission of odorous or volatile compounds).
6. Seek advice as to the waste's correct disposal to ensure the environment is protected.

Managing noise

Noise generally becomes 'pollution' when someone finds the noise offensive. Typical noise issues for neighbours include:

- Overall noise from your operation – such as vehicle movements, sanding, shouting, or machinery noise generated inside or outside buildings (grinding and cutting).
- Specific units or machines located outside buildings and close to neighbours, such as air compressors.
- Rattling or ringing that can sometimes be generated from chipping, especially on steel hulls.

Over many years of successful operation of the slipway, the Association has made contact with our neighbours to foster a good working relationship with them. Noise that is deemed to be offensive is likely to be the biggest issue for our neighbours that would damage this relationship, particularly now that our operations are closer to our neighbours across the street in Marine Drive. Members using the slipway and its facilities must be mindful of the noise they may generate when performing work, due to our close proximity to the residential area.

To improve noise management, individuals must:

- Consider the neighbours.
- All work must be strictly kept to daylight hours and between the hours between 7.00am and 7.00pm (Monday - Saturday) and 8:00am - 7:00pm (Sundays and Public Holidays).
- If a particular job or machine generates noise, consider whether you are performing this activity in the right location and using all practical means to reduce the noise.
- Should an individual working at the slipway receive a noise complaint, the job that is generating the noise must be immediately stopped. A slip operator must be contacted so as a solution can be negotiated with the complainant.
- Limit vehicle movement, especially heavy vehicles, to normal work hours.
- Control the volume of radios.
- Where possible, perform sanding and grinding activities in an area where noise can be muffled, but check occupational health and safety requirements first.
- Consider introducing noise reduction measures such as shielding or muffling for noisy equipment and machinery.

Emergency Contacts

<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Telephone No</i>
Emergency Services	000
MidCoast Council	6591 7222
Department of Environment and Climate Change (NSW)	131 555
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	131 555
Marine Parks Authority	4984 8226
Tea Gardens Police	4997 0244 or 000
Tea Gardens Fire Brigade	4997 0349 or 000
Ambulance (direct)	131 233 or 000
Poisons Information Centre	131 126
Roads and Maritime Services	131 236
RMS (Tony Woodfield)	0428 264 316
Association President, Paul Bendy	0400 123 639
Association Secretary, Justin Brown	0450 791127