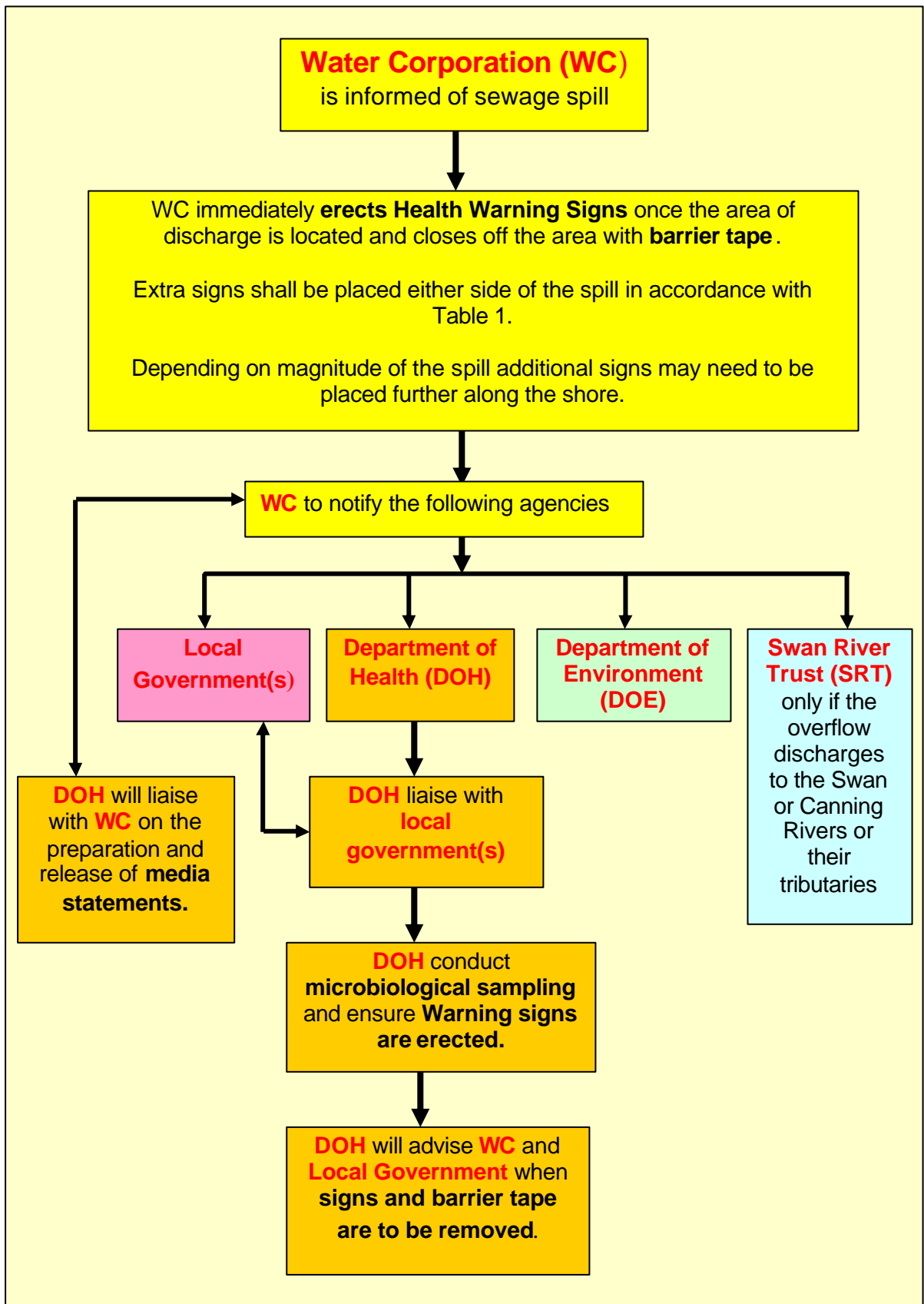


**Department of Health and Water Corporations  
Roles in Response to Sewage Spills in  
River/Ocean/Recreational Water Bodies within  
the Metropolitan Area**

**July 2004**



## SUMMARY FLOW CHART OF SEWAGE SPILL NOTIFICATION



## **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WATER CORPORATIONS ROLES IN RESPONSE TO SEWAGE SPILLS IN RIVER/OCEAN/RECREATIONAL WATER BODIES WITHIN THE METROPOLITAN AREA**

In all situations where a sewage spill occurs in a river, the ocean or a recreational water body within the metropolitan area, the following will apply:

### **1. IMMEDIATE RESPONSE BY THE WATER CORPORATION**

#### **1.1 RIVER, THE OCEAN OR RECREATIONAL WATERBODY (SEWAGE)**

As soon as the Water Corporation is advised of the sewage overflow, a maintenance crew and site manager will be sent immediately to the site and the Duty Incident Manager informed of the situation.

#### **1.2 OCEAN (TREATED WASTEWATER)**

As soon as the Water Corporation is aware of an overflow at a Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), to the emergency outlet, a Duty Officer will be sent immediately to the nearshore discharge area and the Duty Incident Manager informed of the situation.

### **2. IMMEDIATE ACTIONS BY THE WATER CORPORATION AT THE SPILL SITE**

#### **2.1 RIVER, THE OCEAN OR RECREATIONAL WATERBODY (SEWAGE)**

The Site Manager will assess the extent of the spill and immediately commence containment and recovery operations.

Signage will be erected at the area of discharge which shall be closed off with the use of barrier tape.

The Site Manager shall advise the Duty Incident Manager of the extent of the spillage and the actions undertaken for effective containment and recovery. Depending on the severity of the overflow the Duty Incident Manager may attend the site.

#### **2.2 OCEAN (TREATED WASTEWATER)**

Signage will be erected on the beach either side of the discharge point and closed off with the use of barrier tape to prevent public access to near shore waters.

Depending on the magnitude of the spill, signs shall be placed in accordance with Table 1.

**TABLE 1 Signage Requirements**

Spill volume	Distance to be closed off either side of spill
<150 000 litres	250 metres either side of spill
>150 000 litres	500 metres either side of spill

**River/lakes**  
Signs are to be placed either side of the discharge point at 50m intervals along the river's edge. Signs shall be placed up to the distance outlined in table 1, unless otherwise stated. Barrier tape must be used to join signage together. In narrow areas of a river signage will need to be placed both sides of the river.

**Ocean**  
At least 2 signs are to be placed either side of the discharge point at the distance outlined in table 1, unless otherwise stated. Barrier tape must be used to join signage together across the width of the beach.

NOTE: The Site Manager or Duty Officer should have at least two warning signs and barrier tape in the vehicle when immediately attending a spill.

### 3. NOTIFICATION BY WATER CORPORATION

As soon as the Water Corporation has assessed the extent and nature of a spill the following agencies must be notified immediately;

#### 3.1 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH)

##### Principal Contact

Manager, Applied Environmental Health (Llew Withers), during normal working hours (8am – 5pm), of the spill.

Contact details for Llew Withers:

Office: (08) 9388 4964  
Home: (08) 9317 2271  
Mobile: 0408 922 388  
Email: [llew.withers@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:llew.withers@health.wa.gov.au)

##### Secondary Contact

The Water Corporation to notify Director, Environmental Health (Jim Dodds), during normal working hours (8am – 5pm), of the spill.

Contact details for Jim Dodds:

Office: (08) 9388 4915  
Mobile: 0407 043 647  
Email: [jim.dodds@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:jim.dodds@health.wa.gov.au)

For events outside normal working hours contact to be made with the DOH – 24 hours emergency contact number;

Emergency Duty Officer                      **Telephone (08) 9480 4960.**

(The DOH emergency coordinator will pass on the call to relevant staff).

### **3.2 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT (DOE)**

#### **Principal Contact**

DoE Duty Officer

Pager:            1800 018800  
Mobile:          0400 866 443

(who will notify the Relevant Licensing Officer for WWTP overflows.)

#### **Secondary contact**

Department of Environmental Protection (Ken Raine) details:

Office:            9222 7000  
Mobile:          0400 866 413  
Email:            [ken.raine@environ.wa.gov.au](mailto:ken.raine@environ.wa.gov.au)

### **3.3 LOCAL GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION**

The Water Corporation will advise an Environmental Health Officer from all relevant local government(s) of the sewage spill.

### **3.4 SWAN RIVER TRUST (SRT).**

In instances where an overflow is discharged into the Swan or Canning Rivers or their tributaries the Water Corporation will advise the Swan River Trust.

#### **Principal contact**

Swan River Trust contact (Denis Doak) details:

Office:            9278 0400  
Mobile:          0419 904 910  
Email:            [denis.doak@wrc.wa.gov.au](mailto:denis.doak@wrc.wa.gov.au)

#### **Secondary Contact**

Swan River Trust contact (Adam van der Beeke)

Office:            9278 0716  
Mobile:          0427 385 921

**After Hours contact:**                      0419 192 845

## 4. RESPONSE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

On notification of a spill, the Department of Health will arrange for an officer to attend the site and liaise with the Water Corporation in determining the extent of the area to be closed off.

The DOH officer will undertake immediate microbiological sampling along impacted areas in those situations which warrant it.

Depending on the magnitude of the spill the DOH will arrange with the WC or local government for additional signs to be erected further along the shore line.

### 4.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT LIAISON

The Department of Health will liaise with relevant local governments to discuss the placement of warning signs, sampling and media releases.

### 4.2 MICROBIOLOGICAL SAMPLING

The DOH will undertake, with assistance from local government, all microbiological sampling of impacted waters in those situations which warrant it. This sampling will be at least daily until satisfactory results are obtained. (NOTE: experience has shown that it usually takes up to 48 hours for a water body to return to a safe condition following a sewage spill).

## 5. RESPONSE BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Each local government is responsible for informing sporting clubs who use the affected water body for primary recreational purposes within their area, such as surf life saving associations or rowing clubs. Local government(s) may take other actions they deem necessary to prevent access by the public to the affected water body.

## 6. MEDIA STATEMENT

The DOH will liaise with the Water Corporation on preparation and release of media statements.

**Department of Health** Media Release contacts;

Contact Details for Virginia Ielati:

Office: (08) 9222 4042  
Email: [virginia.ielati@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:virginia.ielati@health.wa.gov.au)

Contact Details for Jean Perkins:

Office: (08) 9222 4333  
Email: [jean.perkins@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:jean.perkins@health.wa.gov.au)

**After hours media line** Ph: 9222 4333

**Water Corporation Media Release contact:**

Contact Details for Phil Kneebone, A/Manager Corporate Affairs;

Mobile: 0417 979 508  
Email: [Phil.kneebone@watercorporation.com.au](mailto:Phil.kneebone@watercorporation.com.au)

**After hours media line**

Ph: 9420 3386  
Mobile: 0417 979 508

**7. REMOVAL OF WARNING SIGNS**

The DOH will advise the Water Corporation and Local Government when signs and barrier tape are to be removed.

## CONTACTS

<b>WATER CORPORATION</b>	<b>PHONE NUMBER</b>	<b>MOBILE</b>
24 hour Operations Centre	13 13 75	
Media Contacts Phil Kneebone	9420 3386	0417 979 508
<b>24 hour media line</b>	9420 3386	0417 979 508

<b>DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH</b>	<b>PHONE NUMBER</b>	<b>MOBILE</b>
Principal Contact Llew Withers	9388 4964	0408 922 388
Secondary Contact Jim Dodds – Director	9388 4915	0407 043 647
<b>After Hours Emergency</b>	9480 4960	
Media contacts Virginia Ielati	9222 4042	
Jean Perkins	9222 4333	
<b>24-hour media line</b>	9222 4333	

<b>DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT</b>	<b>PHONE NUMBER</b>	<b>MOBILE</b>
Principal Contact DoE Duty Officer	Pager: 1800 018800	0400 866 443
Secondary Contact Ken Raine	9222 7000	0400 866 413

<b>SWAN RIVER TRUST</b>	<b>PHONE NUMBER</b>	<b>MOBILE</b>
Principal Contact Denis Doak	9278 0400	0419 904 910
Secondary Contact Adam van der Beeke	9278 0716	0427 385 921
<b>After Hours contact line</b>		0419 192 845

<b>PATHCENTRE CONTACTS</b>	<b>PHONE NUMBER</b>
<b>NORMAL WORKING HOURS</b> Weekdays 8am-6pm Sat & Sun prior to 10am PathCentre Water's Examination Lab	9346 2583 or 9346 2171
<b>AFTER HOURS</b> Duty Security Officer of the PathCentre	9346 2536