

# Update on clean-up of wastewater overflow from Ampol

- **If you require clean-up of your property**, phone Ampol's hotline: 1800 802 385
- **If you see a part of the environment that has not been cleaned**, contact the EPA's 24-hour Environment Line: 131 555 or email [info@epa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@epa.nsw.gov.au)
- **If you see wildlife that needs assistance**, contact the Agricultural and Animal Services hotline: 1800 814 647.



*EPA operations officer at the scene ensuring the clean-up continues from Ampol fuel terminal in Kurnell*

We want to update you on how the clean-up of your neighbourhood is progressing after the overflow of oily wastewater from the treatment plant at Ampol's Kurnell terminal.

Environment Protection Authority (EPA) officers have been in the area supervising clean-up by Ampol since the incident happened.

Ampol is required to properly clean up the oily wastewater and impacted areas as quickly as possible.

An official clean-up notice has been issued to Ampol by the EPA. This notice instructs Ampol to clean up impacted areas, engage environmental consultants and to inform the community about the incident.

EPA officers will continue to collect samples in key impacted areas.

Thank you to residents for your understanding at this time. Should you have any further queries or concerns please don't hesitate to contact the following numbers.

## Questions & Answers

**Are there any potential health risks associated with exposure to high quantities of diesel and other petroleum oils?**

NSW Health has provided the following advice:

- The most likely route of exposure is breathing in the associated fumes. Brief exposures (minutes to hours) in outdoor spaces are unlikely to have a health impact. Continuous exposure to fumes should be avoided. Headaches may follow lower-level exposure.
- Breathing in **high** levels of fumes from diesel and other petroleum oils for **long periods** may lead to slurred speech, staggering, weakness, blurred vision, changes to heartbeat and convulsions. Avoid being in areas where fumes are high. If the smell is outside, keep windows and doors closed to limit exposure indoors.
- If diesel and other petroleum oils contact skin or clothing and remain there for several hours it may absorb into the skin and cause inflammation, cracking or peeling skin. If you get oily water on yourself, promptly wash it off with soap and water and change clothes.

## Can I drink tap water?

- Sydney Water has advised its drinking water is safe to drink and has not been impacted by the spill.

- NSW Health advises that bore water should not be used for drinking, especially if it smells of diesel or oil.
- If you have concerns with your drinking water or wastewater system you can call Sydney Water on its 24-hour emergency hotline 13 20 90.

### Can I eat vegetables grown in my backyard?

- If the vegetables are thoroughly washed with drinking water and there is no residual oily smell after washing the vegetables, they may be eaten.

### Can I water my lawns, wash my car, or fill my pool?

- It is safe to water the garden, wash your car or fill a pool using Sydney Water supplied drinking water. If you use a private bore, do not use it for any of these purposes if you can smell diesel or oil.

### I have contamination in my garden what do I do?

- Avoid contact with any oily water. Do not enter the affected area and keep family and pets away until the clean-up is complete.
- Contact Ampol's hotline 1800 802 385 to report any impacts to your property or to find out information about their clean-up activities.

### Can I go swimming?

- It is important not to swim in water impacted by an oil spill due to the health risks of ingestion and skin contact. Do not swim if there is any visible oil in the water.
- The EPA has inspected Silver Beach several times since the incident and has not seen any indications of contamination.
- The Department of Planning and Environment's Beachwatch program recommends avoiding swimming during and for up to three days after rainfall at estuarine swimming locations, or if there are signs of stormwater pollution such as discoloured water, flowing drains, odours or debris.

### Can I go fishing and eat the fish?

- There have been no changes to recreational fishing arrangements in

Botany Bay from the NSW Department of Primary Industries – Fisheries.

- The NSW Food Authority strongly advises against anyone consuming seafood if they don't know where it's come from. Like all fresh food from animals, seafood needs to be handled well to minimise the risk of food poisoning. Important tips for recreationally caught or collected seafood can be found here:  
<https://www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/consumer/special-care-foods/recreational-harvest-of-seafood>

### Can I take my pets to the beach?

- Pets should not enter water impacted by an oil spill for the same reasons that people should not swim in the water.
- Do not allow your pets to swim if there is any visible oil in the water.

### What are the next steps?

- The EPA will be at Marton Park Community Hall tomorrow (Saturday 16 April 2022) from 9am to 11am to assist with enquiries.

### Who can I contact for help?

- You can call the Ampol community hotline 1800 802 385. 24hrs/7days about the clean-up.
- To report wildlife affected by oil call 1800 814 647.

## More information

### Ampol's website

[www.ampol.com.au/about-ampol/news-and-media/kurnell-update](http://www.ampol.com.au/about-ampol/news-and-media/kurnell-update)

### EPA Environment Line

131 555 or [info@epa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@epa.nsw.gov.au)