

Clean-up of wastewater overflow from Ampol



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

Early on Thursday 7 April, streets in your area were affected by an overflow of oily wastewater from the treatment plant at Ampol's Kurnell terminal which spilled onto Captain Cook Drive and surrounding areas.

We want to update you on how the clean-up of your neighbourhood is progressing.

Our Environment Protection Authority (EPA) officers have been in the area inspecting the potential damage and supervising clean up by Ampol since the incident happened.

Our role at the EPA as the environmental regulator when something like this happens, is to:

- provide specialist advice to Fire and Rescue – who are usually the first responders for an incident like this
- ensure that any immediate preventative measures are taken as quickly as possible to stop a spill spreading
- direct the polluter – Ampol, to properly clean-up, and monitor progress
- investigate the incident, to see if any regulatory action should be taken against the polluter

We also investigate if further work will need to be completed in the future.

Since Thursday's incident we have been working closely with National Parks and Wildlife Service and Ampol to assess the damage and the clean-up process.

Over that time, we have:

- Issued a verbal clean-up notice to Ampol the day of the spill, followed by the written notice on Friday, 8 April.
- Instructed Ampol to bring in an independent environmental consultant to assess the potential impacts on the environment
- Performed our own sampling of water and soil in the area following the spill
- Remained onsite to regularly inspect the clean-up process to ensure it meets our regulatory requirements.

Over the coming week we will continue to work closely with Ampol and the independent environmental consultant to deliver detailed investigative works to understand if further clean-up and remediation actions are required. In the meantime, as the work continues, we expect fuel odours to progressively reduce.

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 numbers below.

- **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
- **Should you see wildlife that needs assistance**, contact the Agricultural and Animal Services hotline: 1800 814 647.

Questions & Answers

What is being done about this spill?

- The EPA has been attending the area since the spill on 7 April, to ensure the clean-up is properly managed
- 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.
 - The 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
 - We are working closely with response and recovery agencies including the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, The Port Authority of NSW, Transport for NSW Maritime, Fire and Rescue NSW, Emergency Services and Department of Primary Industries Fisheries
- We are working with National Parks to ensure wildlife and habitat in and around the nearby Ramsar wetland is monitored and that Ampol and the community are aware of what to do if impacted wildlife are found.
- To report wildlife affected by oil call 1800 814 647

What is happening about the smell?

- Fire and Rescue NSW have advised that odours from the incident should be dissipating.

What's happening with the Ramsar wetlands?

- The EPA and National Parks and Wildlife Service are working together to ensure the wildlife and habitat in and around the Ramsar wetland is monitored and that Ampol and the community are aware of what to do if impacted wildlife are found

- Our officers and National Parks officers have been out inspecting the wetlands
- Ampol has engaged expert consultants to sample the water
- We are also taking water samples to gauge the contamination level
- To report oil affected wildlife call 1800 814 647.

How long is this going to take to clean up?

- We expect the clean-up to take Ampol at least several days. Ampol will be expected to have ongoing contact with those properties directly affected
- EPA will check to make sure the clean-up has been performed in line with our requirements.

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.

Who can I contact for help?

- You can call the Ampol community hotline 1800 802 385. 24hrs/7days about the clean-up.
- More information can also be found on Ampol's website: <https://www.ampol.com.au/about-ampol/sustainability/environment>.
- To report wildlife affected by oil call 1800 814 647.

NSW Environment Protection Authority 2022

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