

Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc.

Planning and Development Resource Kit



Scenario 2: Pollution

You notice a strange smell or dead fish or a lot of sediment or strange coloured water in your local creek or a creek where you were walking.

What should you do and who do you contact?

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

STEP 1: Collect evidence

Go to the **How to Collect Evidence** page for instructions.

STEP 2: Report the pollution

As this is an urgent situation, we suggest you Council directly at this point on 4723 5000 (from lower mountains) or 4780 5000 (from upper mountains). You can email your evidence in a follow-up email to Council on council@bmcc.nsw.gov.au.

You could also contact the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage's 24-hour Environment Line on 131 555. For more information about the Environment Line, click [here](#).

To find out if there is more that you can do, go to the next step.

STEP 3: Is the creek in the drinking water catchment?

Refer to the Blue Mountains City Council's interactive maps to see if the creek is in the drinking water catchment. Go to the **How to View BMCC Interactive Maps** page for information on how to use the interactive maps.

Once you have identified the area that the creek runs through, in the 'Select a map view' drop down list, select 'LEP Protected Areas'. This will show the boundaries of the water catchment.

If the creek is in the water catchment, you can contact the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage's 24-hour Environment Line on 131 555. For more information about the Environment Line, click [here](#).

Additional information

Pollution in NSW is regulated at the State level by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act*. Pollution incidents that cause or threaten material harm to the environment must be notified to various authorities, but contacting the Council and/or Environment Line will be sufficient for this scenario.

The EPA treats as confidential the details of any informer who provides information in relation to the enforcement or administration of the environmental laws. With permission, details may be given to the local council or other regulatory authority if the incident reported is within their jurisdiction.

Further information on pollution incidents can be found on the EPA website: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/pollution/>