



2.0 Response Procedure for Fish Kills

REFER-- FISH KILL REPORTING & INVESTIGATION MANUAL, DEH 1998.

These procedures apply regardless of day of week or time of day.

Mission Statement:

The Townsville City Council will respond immediately to reports of fish kills and work closely with the relevant government departments to determine the cause and rectify the situation.

Priorities

- 1 IMMEDIATE RESPONSE
- 2 COMMUNICATION

Authority to Act

The Manager Environmental Management Services has the authority to initiate any actions necessary to determine the cause of fish kills, access staff, initiate clean-up procedures, prevent recurrences and protect the health and safety of the community and environment.

Response Procedure

- 1 On advice of a reported fish kill, the Manager Environmental Management Services shall be notified immediately. The officer receiving the advice will not treat the issue as a routine complaint but will immediately advise the responsible officer verbally, and follow through with written advice.
- 2 The Manager Environmental Management Services will initiate an investigation immediately. The Director Environmental Services will be advised immediately. Also advised will be the Mayor, Chief Executive Officer, Director Engineering Services, Public Relations Manager, Chairperson Environmental Services.
- 3 Upon investigation by the Manager Environmental Management Services, or their delegated officer, a decision shall be made as to the Townsville City Council's involvement in the matter. The Manager Environmental Management Services shall liaise with the Environmental Protection Agency and/or Department Primary Industries. Should the water body require sampling and analysis, and the incident occurs out of hours, then the Process Engineer (Citewater) will be requested to provide water sampling equipment and analytical staff. Should the incident occur within working hours, sampling and analytical assistance is available through Citewater's Laboratory or the Environmental Protection Agency.

TCC EMERGENCY (PROCEDURE) MANUAL

4 Should the matter be directly related to an activity of the Townsville City Council, the relevant officer shall be advised immediately and appropriate action taken to abate the problem. The Director Environmental Services shall be advised and shall brief the Manager Public Relations on the matter. The relevant committee chairperson shall be advised by the Manager Environmental Management Services, if they have not already done so. The Manager Public Relations shall determine as to whether elected representative involvement is required.

5 The Townsville City Council shall work closely with the Environmental Protection Agency in determining the cause of the fish kill. When, and if, the cause is established, the Townsville City Council will pursue any activity that falls under the jurisdiction of the Townsville City Council and rectify the situation.

6 On investigation, the Manager Environmental Management Services shall determine as to whether the Townsville City Council shall clean up the area of dead fish, in the interests of public health and the environment. Should a clean up be necessary, the Manager Environmental Management Services shall liaise through the Manager Health Services and/or Manager Citiwater.

7 Should the water body also serve as a recreational swim area, then the procedure outlined in Emergency Response Procedures for Recreational Water Areas shall also apply. Should the incident be directly related to a sewerage spill/overflow, then the Emergency Response Procedures for sewerage spills shall also apply.

8 At the completion of the exercise, the Manager Environmental Management Services shall prepare a full report on the incident. This report is to be distributed to all persons who have been previously advised and/or require the information, within Townsville City Council. The Manager Environmental Management Services shall discuss with the Director Environmental Services matters that the Townsville City Council can initiate to prevent further/future incidents causing fish kills.