

Mill Stream - Wastewater Overflow Management

Sydney Water is committed to reducing environmental impacts of wet weather overflows to Mill Stream.

We're currently reviewing our response, inspection and remediation procedures for overflow events to Mill Stream. This will ensure that all reasonable and practical measures are taken to minimise risks during wet weather overflows.

Emergency Relief Structures (ERSs)

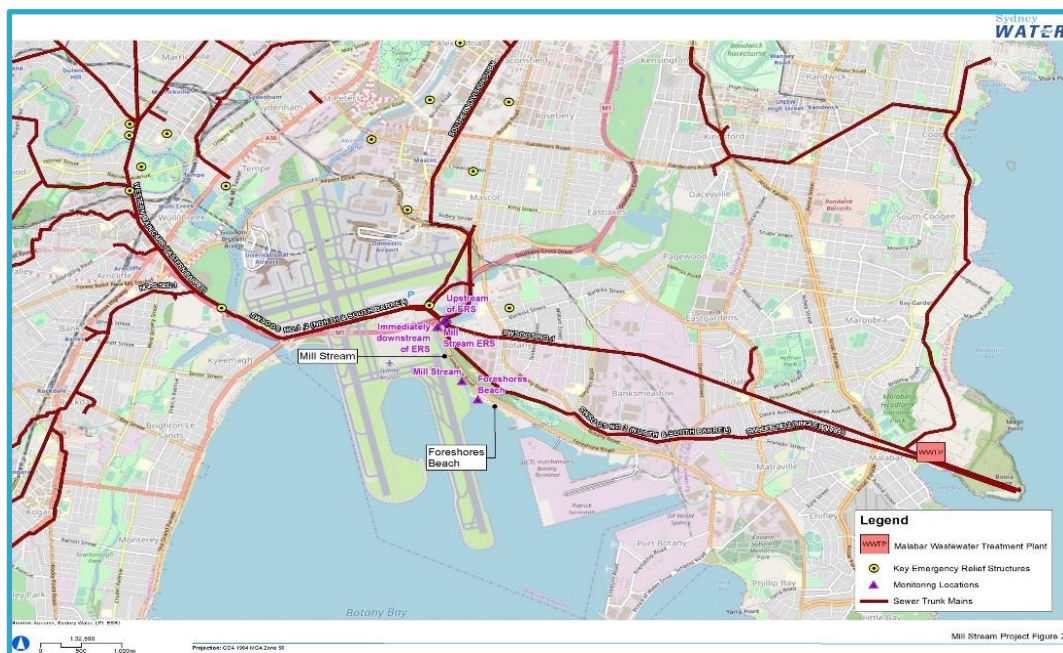
Emergency relief structures are an essential component of the wastewater system. They act as critical control points which are designed to prevent damage to the network and reduce wastewater overflows during wet weather events.

What does this mean for Mill Stream?

Sydney Water owns and operates ERSs that discharge diluted wastewater from the network into Mill Stream. These ERSs are located on the eastern side of Sydney Airport as shown in the figure below.

We've started a series of maintenance and planning projects to minimise the frequency and volume of overflows to Mill Stream. Our teams will assess the discharges from the ERSs to understand the environment and community impact of these overflow events.

Location of emergency relief structures at Sydney Airport, Mascot



ERS Overflow Response

In response to wet weather overflow events, we have procedures in place to ensure public safety and protection of the environment which include:

- Internal Notification – an alarm is triggered, and a staff member of Sydney Water's Systems Operating Centre (SOC) is notified.
- Response time – within two days after the overflow ceases our maintenance personnel and subcontractors will attend the area of Mill Stream Foreshore Beach to assess the need for clean-up. These activities are reliant on the tide and can only be done in daylight.
- Clean-up and remediation - maintenance personnel and subcontractors will remove pollutants and record volume of debris removed.
- External notifications – representatives from Sydney Airport Corporation Limited are notified of overflow events at the same time as our SOC.

Overflows can also occur in dry weather. Our Pollution Reduction Incident Management Plan (PIRMP) is activated, and our crews will respond to investigate and remediate.

The following authorities are also notified:

1. Environment Protection Authority
2. Ministry of Health
3. SafeWork NSW
4. Bayside Council
5. Fire and Rescue NSW

Odour Monitoring

Sydney Water installed an odour monitor at Botany Bay Public School to determine the Hydrogen Sulphide (H_2S) level in the atmosphere. Hydrogen Sulphide is a colourless gas that smells like rotten eggs.

We chose this site due to its close vicinity to Mill Stream and the wastewater overflow point. This process allowed us to monitor the level of H_2S in the air to confirm whether it is within the acceptable levels.

Sydney Water monitored odour levels at Botany Bay Public school until late 2021. The results indicate very low levels of odour (almost zero).

Contact us

If you would like more information please contact our community engagement team on 1800 006 113 or via email at Delivering4Customers@sydneywater.com.au