

# Clean-Up Notice

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Licence 4047

SOUTHERN MEATS PTY. LTD.  
ABN: 51 003 111 528  
PO BOX 244  
GOULBURN NSW 2580

Attention: The Proper Officer  
By email: [craig@southernmeats.com.au](mailto:craig@southernmeats.com.au)

Notice Number 3512442  
Reference Number SR-5446  
Date 02-05-2025

## Clean-up Notice

### Why is the EPA writing to you?

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) reasonably suspects that a pollution incident has occurred or is occurring on land that forms part of 99-249 MAZAMET ROAD GOULBURN 2580 (Premises). The EPA has issued you with this Clean-up Notice. Further information is set out in the notice below.

### What are you required to do?

Please read this notice carefully and carry out the clean-up action specified in this notice by the date required. If you have any queries about this matter, please contact Vanessa O'Keefe on 0488 433 384.

### BACKGROUND

- A. The EPA has responsibility for the administration and enforcement of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (Act).
- B. SOUTHERN MEATS PTY. LTD. (Southern Meats - Licensee) is the holder of environment protection licence no. 4047 (Licence), located at 99-249 Mazamet Road, Goulburn (the premises), issued under the Act in respect of the Premises. The Licence authorises the carrying out of general animal production, rendering or fat extraction and slaughtering or processing animals. As the holder of the Licence, the Licensee is the occupier of the Premises for the purposes of s 91(1)(a) of the Act.
- C. The EPA is the appropriate regulatory authority (ARA) for licensed premises per section 6 of the act.
- D. On 14 April 2025, the EPA received an odour complaint via the EPA Environment line, alleging offensive odours being generated from the Premises. Several other complaints were received by the EPA, details of which were provided to Southern Meats.

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- E. On 16 April 2025, the EPA requested an R3 report from Southern Meats in relation to the incident. An incident report was submitted to the EPA on 23 April 2025. The report provided that:
- . Southern Meats accepts that odour was detected outside of the premises boundary
  - a. The likely source of the event was to be undigested wastewater emanating from the Covered Anaerobic Lagoon (CAL) to the downstream oxidation ponds. The event was due to large single shock and disability event in the CAL.
  - b. The root cause of the event was yet to be determined.
  - c. The CAL appeared to be recovering, and the CAL operator has sought expertise to aid in the return of the CAL to health.
- F. On 30 April 2025, EPA authorised officers inspected the licence premises. During the inspection, the EPA authorised officers experienced strong offensive odours from effluent wastewater stream, emanating specifically from the wastewater aeration pond within the premises. Strong offensive odours were experienced by both officers inside and outside the premise boundary.
- G. On 1 April 2025, The EPA met with Southern Meats and their technical team to discuss the incident and advise of the EPA's intention to issue a Clean-up Notice to the licensee.

## Environment Protection Law

- H. Section 91 of the Act enables the EPA to issue a Clean-up Notice in respect of a pollution incident.

The Dictionary to the Act defines:

- “Pollution incident” as an incident or set of circumstances during or as a consequence of which there is or is likely to be a leak, spill or other escape or deposit of a substance, as a result of which pollution has occurred, is occurring or is likely to occur. It includes an incident or set of circumstances in which a substance has been placed or disposed of on premises, but it does not include an incident or set of circumstances involving only the emission of any noise.
- “Pollution” as including air pollution.
- . air pollution as means the emission into the air of any air impurity.

- I. Also, Section 129 of the Act provides:

1. The occupier of any premises at which scheduled activities are carried on under the authority conferred by a licence must not cause or permit the emission of any offensive odour from the premises to which the licence applies.
2. It is a defence in proceedings against a person for an offence against this section if the person establishes that—
  - a. the emission is identified in the relevant environment protection licence as a potentially offensive odour and the odour was emitted in accordance with the conditions of the licence directed at minimising the odour, or
  - b. the only persons affected by the odour were persons engaged in the management or operation of the premises.
3. A person who contravenes this section is guilty of an offence.

- J. The EPA reasonably suspects that a pollution incident is occurring or is likely to occur at or from the Premises, as a result of odorous wastewater being transferred from the CAL and disposed of into the aeration and treatment ponds.

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K. The EPA is directing you to take clean-up action because you are the occupier of the Premises.

## **DIRECTION TO TAKE CLEAN-UP ACTION**

The EPA directs SOUTHERN MEATS PTY. LTD. to take the following clean-up action:

### **Immediate actions**

#### **Public Notification**

1. By 2 May 2025, submit to the EPA a communications strategy for the ongoing notification of impacted community.
2. From 3 May 2025 provide daily updates on the licensee's website informing the public of actions being taken to address the incident, including posting of this Clean-up Notice.

### **Engagement of Wastewater Specialist**

3. By close of business (COB) 2 May 2025, the licensee must engage a suitably qualified and independent wastewater expert/s for the provision of technical advice to urgently address the cause of current offsite offensive odour emissions.
4. By COB 6 May 2025, the technical expert must:
  - a. undertake an initial assessment of the current condition of the wastewater system, identifying all potential sources or activities creating current offsite offensive odour impacts:
  - b. undertake an assessment of the current strategies being employed to resolve the incident in terms of timely odour reduction potential, and consider further odour mitigation measures and actions;
  - c. submit to the EPA their findings and recommendations to urgently address ongoing offsite odour emissions from the premises wastewater system.
5. By COB 7 May 2025, the licensee must provide a submission to the EPA detailing the immediate actions and associated timeframes it will be taking in response the technical experts recommendations.

### **Engagement of Odour Specialist**

1. By COB 6 May 2025, the licensee must engage a suitably qualified and independent odour expert/s for the provision of technical advice to urgently address current offsite offensive odour emissions
2. By COB 8 May 2025, the technical expert must:
  - a. undertake an initial assessment of the current condition of the wastewater system, identifying all potential sources or activities creating current offsite offensive odour impacts:
  - b. undertake an assessment of the current strategies being employed to resolve the incident in terms of timely odour reduction potential, and consider further odour mitigation measures and actions;
  - c. undertake an odour audit of the surrounding region to quantify offsite odour impacts:
  - d. submit to the EPA their findings and recommendations to urgently address ongoing offsite odour emissions from the premises wastewater system.
3. By no later than 9 May 2025, the licensee must provide a submission to the EPA detailing the immediate actions and associated timeframes it will be taking in response the technical experts recommendations.

### **Peer review of Incident Response Strategy**

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6. By COB 2 May 2025, the licensee must engage a suitably qualified independent expert to peer review the actions currently/proposed to be undertaken to address the failure of the wastewater treatment system.
7. By 5 May 2025, the technical expert must submit to the EPA their recommendations to address any additional measures or actions required to return capacity to the licensed premises effluent treatment system.
8. By 6 May 2025, the licensee must provide a submission to the EPA detailing their proposed actions and measures in response to the technical expert's recommendations as per condition 7 of this notice.

## Waste product removal and disposal strategy

9. By COB 5 May, the licensee must submit to the EPA their strategy and proposed timeframe for the removal and disposal of waste/fat product that has accumulated in and around the aeration lagoon.

## Incident Assessment

10. By 10 May 2025, in consultation with the EPA, the licensee must engage a suitably qualified independent person/s to undertake an Independent Assessment of the incident and make recommendations. The assessment must:
  - a. identify the potential cause/s of the incident
  - b. review the current effluent monitoring systems and their capacity for the early identification of a failure of the effluent treatment system.
  - c. assess the current capacity of the infrastructure, systems and operations on the licensed premises to prevent a re-occurrence of the incident
  - d. evaluate the current administrative controls and management measures and plans associated with effluent monitoring and management systems
  - e. identify any deficiencies that lead to the incident.
11. With consideration of the findings of the Independent Assessment, nominate recommendations to address any identified deficiencies and actions required to address these.
12. On or before 30 May 2025, the licensee must submit the Independent Assessment Report to the EPA, along with a report addressing the assessment findings and nomination of actions and associated timeframes to address the deficiencies identified

## FEE TO BE PAID

- You are required by law to pay a fee for the administrative costs of issuing this notice. An invoice for the fee has been attached to this notice.
- It is an offence not to pay this fee. However you can apply for an extension of time to pay the fee or for the fee to be waived. At the end of this notice there is information about how and when to pay the fee and how to apply for an extension or a waiver of the fee.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Goodwin'.

**Janine Goodwin**



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## Unit Head

(by Delegation)

### **WARNINGS AND INFORMATION ABOUT THIS CLEAN-UP NOTICE**

- This notice is issued under section 91 of the Act.
- It is an offence against the Act not to comply with a clean-up notice unless you have a reasonable excuse.
- Details provided in this notice will be available on the Public Register in accordance with section 308 of the Act
- If this notice is issued to a corporation and the notice is not complied with by the date specified, the EPA may, under s 91A(2) of the Act, issue a supplementary clean-up notice to a current or former director or manager, or a related body corporate, directing them to carry out, or ensure the carrying out of, clean-up action specified in the supplementary notice.

### **Penalty for not complying with this notice**

- The maximum penalty that a court may impose for a corporation is \$2,000,000 and a further \$240,000 for each day the offence continues. The maximum penalty that a court may impose for an individual is \$500,000 and a further \$120,000 for each day the offence continues.
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### **When this notice begins to operate**

- This notice operates from the day the notice is given, unless a later date is specified in the notice.

### **Continuing obligation**

- Under section 319A of the Act, your obligation to comply with the requirements of this notice continues until the notice is complied with in full, even if the due date for compliance has passed.

### **Cost recovery from the person(s) who caused or contributed to the incident**

- If you comply with this clean-up notice but you are not the person who caused, or solely caused, the pollution incident to which the notice relates, you have a right to go to court to recover your costs, or part of your costs, of complying with the notice from persons who caused or contributed to the incident.

### **Deadline for paying the fee**

- The fee must be paid by **no later than 30 days after the date of this notice**, unless the EPA extends the time to pay the fee, or waives the fee.

### **How to pay the fee**

- Possible methods of payment are listed on the last page of the attached invoice/statement.
- Please include the payment slip from the attached invoice/statement with your payment.

### **How to apply for an extension of time to pay/waive the fee**

- Any application for an extension of time to pay the fee or for the fee to be waived must be made in writing to the EPA. The application should set out clearly why you think your application should be granted.

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## Other costs

- The Act allows the EPA to recover from you reasonable costs and expenses it incurs in monitoring action taken under this notice, ensuring the notice is complied with and associated matters.
- If you are required to pay these other costs and expenses you will later be sent a separate notice called a “Notice Requiring Payment of Reasonable Costs and Expenses”.

## Variation of this notice

- The requirements of this notice may only be varied or revoked by written notice issued by the EPA.