Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority

SECTION 14 INCIDENT REPORT (*Waste Management and Pollution Control Act*)

Date and Time of Notification:	Tuesday 17/11/2020 13:18hrs
Person / Company:	Power and Water Corporation (**PWC**)
Incident:	Discharge of raw sewage from sewerage network

(a) the incident causing or threatening to cause pollution	*i. Description of the waste that was discharged.* Raw sewage *ii. Indicative wastewater quality for the discharge.* Rainfall leading up to the overflow was 0mm for the preceding 7 days (Crocker Island – 014308), meaning that flows were average dry weather flows, with no dilution. Please refer to the following table for indicative wastewater quality. Table 1: Inflow to Ludmilla Wastewater Treatment Plant (ADWF= Average Dry Weather Flow ~14.5 ML/day in 2013/14) *iii. Volume of the waste that was discharged.* The volume of waste discharged is unknown. No telemetric monitoring occurs at the site of discharge. An estimate of the spill volume is 50 kilolitres, which is based on the pumps operating flow rate and that the pump typically operates for a maximum of 3 hours per day. This is a worst case scenario figure, with the actual volume likely to be less, as the community numbers are also down at present.
(b) the place where the incident occurred	*i. Description of the PWC asset from which the discharge occurred.* 100mm PVC sewage rising main, between the community sewage pumping station (SPS) and the waste stabilisation ponds. *ii. GPS coordinates of the discharge point from the PWC asset, and the final coordinates of the final discharge point.* Discharge Point: 132.57888889, -11.14333673

Inflow volume	median inflow kL	median E coli	90th percentile inflow kL	90th percentile E coli
below ADWF	11,040	11,199,000	12,925	15,531,000
>ADWF (14.5 ML/day)	15,274	9,804,000	22,206	17,148,300
>2x ADWF (29.0 ML/day)	31,673	4,884,000	37,166	14,385,600
>3x ADWF (43.5 ML/day)	43,629	4,611,000	50,506	12,843,600
>5x ADWF (72.5 ML/day)	71,558	5,002,000	78,578	5,905,200
>WDL limit (89.5 ML/day)	102,445	102,445	148,575	13,704,400

	Final Discharge Point: Immediately surrounding the discharge point, the wastewater soaked into the surrounding sandy soils within a few meters of where the pipe had split. *iii. Indicate any locations nearby to the discharge point where public can gain ready-access, such as public open spaces through which the discharge moves.* Access to the public is possible, but is believed to be infrequent given the nature of the location, as the spill occurred within very thick bushland, with no evidence that access to this location is undertaken.
(c) the date and time of the incident	*i. The time and date of commencement and cessation of the discharge.* The commencement time of the overflow is unknown. The overflow, or lack of flow into the waste ponds was first observed by the ESO on Friday 13/11/2020, with the spill from the sewer main having been stopped at approximately 12:00hrs 18/11/2020. *ii. How PWC were notified, or became aware of the discharge.* The ESO noticed that there was no flow into the wastewater stabilisation ponds on Friday 13/11/2020, who then advised the PWC Co-ordinator. Both the Co-ordinator and the ESO traversed the length of the pipeline to try to locate the issue. *iii. The process by which the discharge occurred.* The cause of the spill was due to the PVC sewer pipeline being damaged by tree roots, as the pipeline is an underground pipeline, which runs through what is now thick scrub typical of tropical environments. *iv. The reason why the discharge occurred.* As per (c) iii.
(d) how the pollution has occurred, is occurring or may occur	As per (c) iii.
(e) the attempts made to prevent, reduce, control, rectify or clean up the pollution or resultant environmental harm caused or threatening to be caused by the incident	*i. Confirmation signage and fencing has been erected, as appropriate.* Warning tape has been erected around the excavation site, however no public access is anticipated as the site is approximately 256 meters into very thick scrubland. *ii. Decontamination of the site as appropriate.* The pipeline has been repaired, gross pollutants have been cleaned up and lime will be applied to the areas once backfill has been completed. Residents have also been advised of the spill and not to go to the area. In response to this event, the path of the sewer rising main will be cleared to provide vehicle access and have service markers installed, allowing the ESO to carry out routine checks of the line, helping to identify any

	issues earlier. The clearing will also assist with prevention of damage to the sewer main by tree roots.
(f) the identity of the person notifying the NT EPA	PWC Environmental Team on behalf of Water Services

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Appendix A – Location map

Appendix B – Photograph of Spill Location, prior to pipework being exposed.