

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

Date and Time of Notification:	Thursday 3 rd November 2022, 09:30hrs
Person / Company:	Power and Water Corporation (PWC)
Incident:	Discharge of fully treated effluent from Bulman wastewater stabilisation ponds.

<p>(a) the incident causing or threatening to cause pollution</p>	<p><i>i. Description of the waste that was discharged.</i></p> <p>Fully treated effluent.</p> <p><i>ii. Indicative wastewater quality for the discharge.</i></p> <p>There is no recent wastewater quality data available from Bulman or any of the surrounding communities, as none have a waste discharge licence, due to all effluent typically being evaporated or irrigated and hence no monitoring occurs.</p> <p><i>iii. Volume of the waste that was discharged.</i></p> <p>The volume of wastewater discharged is unknown. No telemetric monitoring occurs at the site of discharge.</p>
<p>(b) the place where the incident occurred</p>	<p><i>i. Description of the PWC asset from which the discharge occurred.</i></p> <p>Bulman wastewater stabilisation ponds, pond number 3, emergency discharge point.</p> <p><i>ii. GPS coordinates of the discharge point from the PWC asset, and the final coordinates of the final discharge point.</i></p> <p>Discharge Point: 134.3377374E, 13.6788267S (end of emergency overflow discharge pipeline) Final Discharge Point: 134.3377056E, 13.6795618S (minor creek)</p> <p>Discharge occurred from the emergency overflow discharge pipeline, which discharges from pond number three. This area will have signage erected to warn members of the public to avoid contact with the effluent.</p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p>Access by the public is possible to the spill location, however is not believed to be frequently accessed given its location.</p>

<p>(c) the date and time of the incident</p>	<p><i>i. The time and date of commencement and cessation of the discharge.</i></p> <p>The exact timing of the overflow is unknown. The essential services operator (ESO) first reported the issue on Wednesday morning 2nd November 2022. This overflow is currently ongoing, but expected to cease soon.</p> <p><i>ii. How PWC were notified, or became aware of the discharge.</i></p> <p>The Power and Water Technical Co-ordinator responsible for the area was notified by phone by the Essential Services Operator (ESO) of the community.</p> <p><i>iii. The process by which the discharge occurred.</i></p> <p>Recently the community of Weemol has had its septic wastewater system permanently connected to the Bulman wastewater stabilisation ponds. The overflow resulted due to the installation of a new sewer pump station at Weemol, which was functionally tested on 01/11/2022, with the wet well being filled with water from the reticulated water system, then pumped into the Bulman sewer pump station and ultimately into the Bulman ponds. This commissioning of the Weemol sewer pump station, which involved extra water being delivered to the Bulman sewer ponds, the day prior to the overflow, is most likely the cause of the overflow. Weemol is a small neighbouring outstation just over 3 kilometres to the north-west of Bulman. The Bulman wastewater stabilisation ponds are expected to comfortably handle this permanent additional loading from Weemol.</p> <p><i>iv. The reason why the discharge occurred.</i></p> <p>As per (c) iii,</p>
<p>(d) how the pollution has occurred, is occurring or may occur</p>	<p>As per (c) iii & (c) iv.</p>
<p>(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</p>	<p><i>i. Confirmation signage and fencing has been erected, as appropriate.</i></p> <p>The ESO has been requested to erect signage warning members of the community and the wider public of the presence of the effluent.</p> <p><i>ii. Decontamination of the site as appropriate.</i></p> <p>Site was inspected for any wastewater gross pollutants, of which none were observed.</p>
<p>(f) the identity of the person notifying the NT EPA</p>	<p>PWC Environmental Team on behalf of Water Services</p>

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Appendix A – Location Map with co-ordinates of discharge point and final discharge location.



Appendix B – Location Photographs



Location #2, final discharge location

Photographs taken 2nd November 2022, by the ESO



Approximately 45m further downstream from location #2