

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

Date and Time of Notification:	Monday 23 rd January 2023 4:00pm
Person / Company:	Power and Water Corporation (PWC)
Incident:	Discharge of sewage from sewerage network (manhole cover)

(a) the incident causing or threatening to cause pollution	<p><i>i. Description of the waste that was discharged.</i></p> <p>Raw Sewage</p> <p><i>ii. Indicative wastewater quality for the discharge.</i></p> <p>There is no recent wastewater quality data available from Binjari community as it does not have a waste discharge licence, due to all effluent typically being evaporated and hence no monitoring occurs.</p> <p><i>iii. Volume of the waste that was discharged.</i></p> <p>The volume of waste discharged is unknown as manholes are not telemetered.</p>
(b) the place where the incident occurred	<p><i>i. Description of the PWC asset from which the discharge occurred.</i></p> <p>Sewer manhole – Binjari Community</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: 14.548954S 132.1804002E Final discharge location: 14.5485499S 132.1805011E</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>The discharge is via a manhole within a fenced sewer pump station compound. Sewage has exited the fenced compound into a public accessible location. Flagging tape and signage has been erected around the area to warn the public and prevent access to the site.</p>
(c) the date and time of the incident	<p><i>i. The time and date of commencement and cessation of the discharge.</i></p> <p>Observed (approx.) – 8:00am Monday 23rd January 2023 Stop (approx.) – 1:00pm Monday 23rd January 2023</p>

	<p>Initial start time is unknown, however was observed as per details above.</p> <p><i>ii. How PWC were notified, or became aware of the discharge.</i></p> <p>PWC was notified from the Essential Services Officer who noticed the overflow during a routine inspection.</p> <p><i>iii. The process by which the discharge occurred.</i></p> <p>The cause of the spill was due to a blockage in the sewer line, which resulted from a build-up of foreign items such as wet wipes. Non-disintegrating items like wet wipes and kitchen paper towels that have been incorrectly disposed of into the sewer network by customers, resulted in the blockage and the overflow.</p> <p>Public education about what can be disposed into sewer/is flushable: https://www.powerwater.com.au/about/what-we-do/wastewater/sewer-blockages-and-overflows/think-before-you-put-it-down-the-sink In the aim of prevention, this material is available on the PWC website and is used as an educational tool for customers.</p> <p><i>iv. The reason why the discharge occurred.</i></p> <p>As per (c) iii. Sewerage network infrastructure has been designed to overflow with the best public health and environmental outcomes possible. Design focuses on not overflowing directly inside houses; rather discharge is designed to occur in a controlled manner at locations which can be accessed for infrastructure repair and clean up and with minimal public health or environmental impacts.</p>
(d) how the pollution has occurred, is occurring or may occur	As per (c) iii & (c) iv.
(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><i>i. Confirmation signage and fencing has been erected, as appropriate.</i></p> <p>Flagging tape and signage has been erected around the area to warn the public and prevent access to the site</p> <p><i>ii. Decontamination of the site as appropriate.</i></p> <p>All gross pollutants identified are being removed. Lime is also being sourced and will be applied to the area.</p> <p><i>iii. Attempts made to prevent, reduce or control the discharge</i></p> <p>Blockage was cleared, allowing sewage to flow again.</p>
(f) the identity of the person notifying the NT EPA	PWC Environmental Team on behalf of Water Services

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Appendix A: Map



Figure 1: 1. Approximate discharge location. 2. Approximate final point

Appendix B: Photos

Pre-clean-up	Post Clean-up	
		
Over-flowing manhole cover	Flagging tape and signage	