

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

Date and Time of Notification:	Friday 30 th December 2022, 13:45hrs
Person / Company:	Power and Water Corporation
Incident:	Discharge of sewage from sewerage network, Galiwinku (Elcho Island) Sewage Pumping Stations No. 1 and No.2

(a) the incident causing or threatening to cause pollution

i. Description of the waste that was discharged.

Diluted raw sewage

ii. Indicative wastewater quality for the discharge.

Indicative wastewater quality for this overflow can be found in Table 1. Table 1 includes wastewater results from the community pond facility – Pond 1 Inlet. Rainfall leading up to the overflow was 129.8mm for the previous 7 days (Maningrida Airport – 014405), therefore diluted sewage is believed to have overflowed from the Manhole.

Table 1 - Galiwinku Pond 1 Inlet

Date	E.Coli / 100ml	Enterococci / 100ml
6/12/22	906000	21600
1/11/22	288000	12100
4/10/22	408000	16100

iii. Volume of the waste that was discharged.

The volume of wastewater discharged is not accurately known as no telemetric monitoring occurs at the site of discharge; an estimate based on typical flow rates is as per below;

- SPS#1 ~ 194KL
- SPS#2 ~ 72KL

(b) the place where the incident occurred

i. Description of the PWC asset from which the discharge occurred.

Both sewage pumping stations 1 and 2 within the community of Galiwinku, Elcho Island.

ii. GPS coordinates of the discharge point from the PWC asset, and the final coordinates of the final discharge point. (Ludmilla)

Discharge Point (SPS#1): 135.5631013E, -12.0228697S (co-ord. 1) Final Discharge Point (SPS#1): 135.5617010E, -12.0227718S (co-ord.2)

Discharge Point (SPS#2): 135.5648512E, -12.03114863S (co-ord. 3) Final Discharge Point (SPS#2): 135.5644594E, -12.0312402S (co-ord. 4) (The above final discharge point is approximate and based on contours). 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 was possible, but due to the monsoonal rainfall no lime or hypochlorite was applied. (c) the date and time of the i. The time and date of commencement and cessation of the discharge. incident SPS#1 Started to overflow approximately at 12:30hrs, 28/12/2022. Overflow ceased at approximately 10:30hrs, 29/12/2022. SPS#2 Started to overflow shortly before 14:30hrs, 28/12/2022. Overflow ceased at approximately 13:30, 29/12/2022. ii. How PWC were notified, or became aware of the discharge. For SPS#1, the Essential Services Operator (ESO) observed a fault alarm, and for SPS#2 observed the actual overflow from the wet well lid. He then contacted the on-call PWC Coordinator. The event was not communicated to Environmental Services until the morning of 30/12/2022. iii. The process by which the discharge occurred. SPS#1 had both pumps blocks by foreign material and the ESO was unable to repair the problem at the time. SPS#2 had an electrical fault, with the circuit breaker not able to be reset, which meant that both pumps were inoperable until such time as the faulty circuit breaker was replaced. iv. The reason why the discharge occurred. 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. (d) how the pollution has occurred, is occurring or As per (c) iii & (c) iv. may occur (e) the attempts made to i. Confirmation signage and fencing has been erected, as appropriate. prevent, reduce, control, rectify or clean up the No signage or fencing was erected for the overflow from SPS#1, as the pollution or resultant overflow was discharged to an area currently not used by the public, due environmental harm caused to the rough weather and ocean conditions. or threatening to be caused by the incident For SPS#2, due to recent rainfall, the extent of the overflow is not visible. and discharged into an area of trees and high grass, unlikely to be traversed by anyone in the near future, hence fencing and signage would

	be of little value. The Power and Water Technical Coordinator has advised the ESO that it is too unsafe for him to enter this area, and is not to do so.
	ii. Decontamination of the site as appropriate.
	Clean up consistent with Sewage Spills/Overflow Response Work Instruction as appropriate to the location. Discharge sites inspected for any gross pollutants and removed as required.
(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 (Galiwinku SPS#1)



Appendix B – Location Map (Galiwinku SPS#2)







0 25.0 50.0 Meters Scale 1: 1,000 Galiwinku Sewage Pumping Station #2 Discharge Point and Approximate Final Discharge Point

30/12/2022

Appendix B – Location photo of SPS#2 discharge receiving environment.

