Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority

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

Date and Time of Notification:	Tuesday 3/12/2024 10:30hrs
Person / Company:	Power and Water Corporation
Incident:	Discharge of sewage from sewerage network (overflow relief gully (ORG))

(a) the incident causing or threatening to cause pollution	*i. Description of the waste that was discharged.* Diluted sewage. *ii. Indicative wastewater quality for the discharge.* See below data from the most recent sampling event at Milingimbi ponds inlet. This sample was taken during dry conditions and reflects raw sewage, whereas the recent discharge was during wet conditions and diluted sewage is expected to have entered the environment. *Table 1: Indicative wastewater quality* Bacteriological / E. coli / Enterococci Sample Date | Description | Status | E. coli (MPN/100 mL) | Enterococci (MPN/100 mL) 07/08/2024 07:45:00 | WQ-MILINGIMBI POND 1 INLET | Valid | 2,581,000.0 | 37,400.0 *Table 2: Recent Rainfall Figures for Milingimbi Airport* *Date* | *mm* *25/11/2024* | *58.2* *26/11/2024* | *13.6* *iii. Volume of the waste that was discharged.* The volume of wastewater discharged is unknown as ORG's are not telemetered.
(b) the place where the incident occurred	*i. Description of the PWC asset from which the discharge occurred.* Sewer ORG – Milingimbi School (Lot 244) *ii. GPS coordinates of the discharge point from the PWC asset, and the final coordinates of the final discharge point.* Discharge Point: 134.9203512E, 12.1032070S Final discharge point: 134.9205394E, 12.1033394S

	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. Public access was possible to the discharge location however flagging tape and signage has been erected around the area to warn the public and prevent access to the site.
(c) the date and time of the incident	*i. The time and date of commencement and cessation of the discharge.* A blockage was reported to Power and Water at 1.54pm on Monday 25th November with the overflow believed to have occurred around this time at the nearby school. The blockage was cleared at approximately 12.00pm on Tuesday 26th November, with the overflow expected to have ceased around this time. Power and Water were not notified of the overflow at the school premises until Monday 2nd December from which Power and Water immediately responded and initiated the clean-up. *ii. How PWC were notified, or became aware of the discharge.* Power and Water was notified by a school representative of the overflow on their premises. *iii. The process by which the discharge occurred.* 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. 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 Power and Water website and is used as an educational tool for customers. *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/facilities; rather discharge is designed to occur in a controlled manner at locations which can be accessed for infrastructure repair and clean up and with minimised public health or environmental impacts.
(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	*i. Confirmation signage and fencing has been erected, as appropriate.* Flagging tape and signage has been erected around the area to alert the public and prevent access to the site. *ii. Decontamination of the site as appropriate.* The site has been inspected for gross pollutants and removed where identified. The site has been cordoned off and will be decontaminated

	and have topsoil applied. The flagging and signage will remain in place until the end of the school term (13/12/24). *iii. Attempts made to prevent, reduce or control the discharge.* Blockage was cleared stopping the overflow.
(f) the identity of the person notifying the NT EPA	PWC Environmental Team on behalf of Water Services

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

Overflow relief gully – Milingimbi School and adjacent lot