

Summary of Notification of Incident - pursuant to Section 14 of the Waste Management and Pollution Control Act

04/02/08

**Company – Parmalat Australia Ltd
Incident – Raw Milk loss to sewer
Location – Bishop St**

THE IDENTITY OF THE PERSON NOTIFYING OF THE INCIDENT –

Brad Newman - Site Manager - Parmalat Australia Ltd – Darwin Site.

THE INCIDENT CAUSING OR THREATENING TO CAUSE POLLUTION –

20,000 litres raw milk lost directly to sewer during storage silo transfer causing a potential overload at the receiving Power & Water Corporation (PWC) Ludmilla sewage treatment plant and consequent impact on the quality of Ludmilla plant effluent and the receiving environment in proximity to the outfall at East Point.

THE PLACE WHERE THE INCIDENT OCCURRED –

22 Bishop Street processing facility – raw milk silo area.

THE DATE AND TIME OF THE INCIDENT –

04.02.08 – during hours 03:30am to 05:30am (2 hr period)

HOW THE POLLUTION OCCURRED, IS OCCURRING OR MAY OCCUR –

Operator was pasteurising milk from storage silo 2 and failed to check a manual valve that had been left in a partially open position - operator informed Manager immediately when this mistake was realised. The manual valve in question was mistakenly left open after normal silo transfer and subsequent CIP on the previous Friday morning. Upon normal start up Monday morning, the manual valve remained in an partially open position and drained milk to sewer over a 2 hour period. It was only when the silo emptied that the operator realised his mistake.

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 –

The company is currently undergoing discussions with PWC for the setting up of a Trade Waste Agreement that will facilitate a fee for disposal arrangement and provide pre-treatment guidelines prior to disposal to sewer. PWC was notified of milk release to sewer at approximately 8am by which time milk product would have transited the sewerage system and sewage treatment plant. No plant adjustments were possible to the treatment process at Ludmilla within this timeframe.

The company is also in the process of bringing online an automated system as part of a company wide upgrade. It is likely that this automation will form part of any Trade Waste Agreement.

In-house procedures for dealing with such accidents/contingencies have been initiated and the operator responsible is subject to disciplinary hearing.