

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

Date and Time of Notification:	Tuesday 1 st February 2023, 14:15hrs
Person / Company:	Power and Water Corporation (PWC)
Incident:	Discharge of sewage from sewerage network (manhole)

(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>No representative wastewater quality data is available for this discharge. All sampling undertaken for Waste Discharge Licence purposes is from pond number 4 outlet.</p> <p><i>iii. Volume of the waste that was discharged.</i></p> <p>The volume of waste discharged is unknown. No telemetric monitoring occurs at the site of discharge, but it has been estimated to be approximately 3,000 litres.</p>
(b) the place where the incident occurred	<p><i>i. Description of the PWC asset from which the discharge occurred.</i></p> <p>Manhole cover (4/7), at 45 Janama Street (Lot117), Kalkarindji.</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>Approximate locations are as follows; Discharge Point: 130.8297002E, -17.4455732S (manhole) Final Discharge Point: 130.8297696E, -17.4456956S (lot116 back yard)</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 to the general public is not possible as it occurred on two fenced private properties. Residents within the properties were aware of the overflow and contacted the local Essential Services Operator (ESO).</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>The commencement time of the overflow is unknown. The overflow was reported by the ESO to the Power and Water Technical Coordinator at</p>

	<p>16:00hrs, 30/01/2023. The cause of the overflow was rectified by a plumbing contractor, who had to be called out from Katherine, late afternoon of the 31/01/2023, at which point the overflow ceased.</p> <p><i>ii. How PWC were notified, or became aware of the discharge.</i></p> <p>This overflow was reported by one of the residents to the Essential Services Operator (ESO), who then relayed the information to the Power and Water Technical Coordinator. After 2 hours of the ESO unsuccessfully trying to clear the blockage, a plumbing contractor was subsequently called out to the community.</p> <p><i>iii. The process by which the discharge occurred.</i></p> <p>The cause of the spill was due to a partial or full blockage in the sewer line, which resulted from foreign matter being incorrectly disposed of into the sewerage system. A large amount of rocks were also noted by the plumber to be in the sewer main, although not likely to be the main cause of the spill.</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>
<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>Pedestrian barrier mesh and signage was not erected around the spill affected area. The spill was also contained within the property boundaries of two private residences, to further prevent public access.</p> <p><i>ii. Decontamination of the site as appropriate.</i></p> <p>Clean up consistent with Sewage Spills/Overflow Response Work Instruction as appropriate to the location, and to minimise risk to the Environment. Blockage was cleared and upon resolution of the blockage, the spill affected area had lime applied to it. The site was left in a clean state, free from any gross pollutants.</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



Appendix B – Photographs of the location



Figure 1. Spill coming from access chamber 4/7.



Figure 2. Spill coming from access chamber 4/7.