

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

Date and Time of Notification:	Wednesday 16/09/2026, 17:00hrs
Person / Company:	Power and Water Corporation
Incident:	Planned Discharge from the Papunya Wastewater Stabilisation Ponds

(a) the incident causing or threatening to cause pollution	<i>i. Description of the waste that will be discharged.</i> Highly treated sewage effluent. <i>ii. Indicative wastewater quality for the proposed discharge.</i> Prior to PWC infrastructure, there is a common effluent drain whereby the effluent is treated via septic tanks within the house property boundary, then transported to the Power & Water wastewater treatment facility. <table><tr><th>Sample Date</th><th>Description</th><th>E. coli (MPN/100 mL)</th><th>Description</th><th>E. coli (MPN/100 mL)</th></tr><tr><td>14/07/2026</td><td>WQ-PAPUNYA POND 1 INLET</td><td>770,100.0</td><td>WQ-PAPUNYA POND 5 OUTLET</td><td>19.0</td></tr><tr><td>29/04/2026</td><td>WQ-PAPUNYA POND 1 INLET</td><td>36,540.0</td><td>WQ-PAPUNYA POND 5 OUTLET</td><td>12.0</td></tr></table> The treatment is made up of 1 facultative pond, 3 maturation ponds and 1 evaporation pond. Due to the multiple treatment steps, the wastewater is treated to a high level. No gross pollutants will be present in the discharge as most of these are captured in the household septic or the first pond. <i>iii. Volume of the wastewater that will get discharged.</i> Currently unknown	Sample Date	Description	E. coli (MPN/100 mL)	Description	E. coli (MPN/100 mL)	14/07/2026	WQ-PAPUNYA POND 1 INLET	770,100.0	WQ-PAPUNYA POND 5 OUTLET	19.0	29/04/2026	WQ-PAPUNYA POND 1 INLET	36,540.0	WQ-PAPUNYA POND 5 OUTLET	12.0
Sample Date	Description	E. coli (MPN/100 mL)	Description	E. coli (MPN/100 mL)												
14/07/2026	WQ-PAPUNYA POND 1 INLET	770,100.0	WQ-PAPUNYA POND 5 OUTLET	19.0												
29/04/2026	WQ-PAPUNYA POND 1 INLET	36,540.0	WQ-PAPUNYA POND 5 OUTLET	12.0												
(b) the place where the incident occurred	<i>i. Description of the Power & Water asset from which the discharge will occur.</i> The Papunya wastewater stabilisation ponds, pond #5 (evaporation pond) <i>ii. GPS coordinates of the discharge point from the PWC asset, and the final coordinates of the final discharge point.</i> Discharge Point: 23.19988817S, 131.9210742E Final Discharge Point: 23.1992400S, 131.9202249E															

	<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> Public access is possible between the discharge and final discharge locations, where it is past the facilities fenceline. This is highly unlikely as there are no vehicle tracks close to this area, is not located close to the town and has no points of interest near by.
(c) the date and time of the incident	<i>i. The time and date of commencement and cessation of the discharge.</i> The date of discharge is currently unknown but will occur within a week from the date of this notification. The discharge will be stopped once the safety risk to our operational staff is mitigated. The southern region is entering a period of higher evaporation and this increased evaporation will also assist in lowering the water level. <i>ii. How Power & Water were notified or became aware of the potential discharge.</i> A Power & Water employee noticed the high pond levels during a planned assurance inspection. <i>iii. The process by which the discharge will occurred.</i> The effluent will be released in a controlled manner from a valve at pond number 5, the last pond in the treatment train. <i>iv. The reason why the discharge will occur.</i> The pond levels have reached the height of the pond walls due to higher than normal inflow rates, which would be expected from the number of residents in the community. Winter months have lower evaporation rates which have intensified the high water level.
(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>i. Confirmation signage and fencing has been erected, as appropriate.</i> A sign is being affixed to the gate at the ponds advising that there is no access permitted until the facility is safe. A road closed sign will also be erected at the ponds access road. <i>ii. Decontamination of the site as appropriate.</i> A clean-up will not required in this instance, as there will not be any gross pollutants and the water quality is high.
(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*)

Appendix A – Aerial image of the ponds and discharge location



Appendix B – Photographs of the ponds showing the overtopping of an internal pond wall.



