

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

Date and Time of Notification:	Friday 27 th October 2023, 15:15hrs
Person / Company:	Power and Water Corporation
Incident:	Discharge of sewage from sewerage network

<p>(a) the incident causing or threatening to cause pollution</p>	<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>Below is the latest wastewater quality data from the Palmerston ponds inlet sewer trunk, to provide an indicative wastewater quality of the discharge.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Sample Date</th> <th rowspan="2">Description</th> <th colspan="2">Bacteriological</th> <th colspan="5">Physical and General Chemical</th> </tr> <tr> <th>E. coli (MPN/100 mL)</th> <th>Ammonia as N (Organic) (mg/L)</th> <th>Biochemical Oxygen Demand (mg/L)</th> <th>Nitrate as N (mg/L)</th> <th>Nitrate + Nitrite as N (mg/L)</th> <th>pH (lab) (pH units)</th> <th>Phosphorus Total (mg/L)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>30/08/2023</td> <td>SEWER INLET</td> <td>9,804,000.0</td> <td>13.0</td> <td>120.0</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>7.31</td> <td>9.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16/08/2023</td> <td>SEWER INLET</td> <td>15,531,000</td> <td>8.9</td> <td>93.0</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>7.7</td> <td>9.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2/08/2023</td> <td>SEWER INLET</td> <td>12,997,000</td> <td>13.0</td> <td>110.0</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>7.47</td> <td>8.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19/07/2023</td> <td>SEWER INLET</td> <td>7,701,000.0</td> <td>12.0</td> <td>76.0</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>7.61</td> <td>8.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5/07/2023</td> <td>SEWER INLET</td> <td>12,997,000</td> <td>19.0</td> <td>110.0</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>7.54</td> <td>8.5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <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. It is estimated to be approximately 2 kilolitres.</p>	Sample Date	Description	Bacteriological		Physical and General Chemical					E. coli (MPN/100 mL)	Ammonia as N (Organic) (mg/L)	Biochemical Oxygen Demand (mg/L)	Nitrate as N (mg/L)	Nitrate + Nitrite as N (mg/L)	pH (lab) (pH units)	Phosphorus Total (mg/L)	30/08/2023	SEWER INLET	9,804,000.0	13.0	120.0	0.1	0.1	7.31	9.2	16/08/2023	SEWER INLET	15,531,000	8.9	93.0	0.1	0.1	7.7	9.0	2/08/2023	SEWER INLET	12,997,000	13.0	110.0	0.1	0.1	7.47	8.5	19/07/2023	SEWER INLET	7,701,000.0	12.0	76.0	0.1	0.1	7.61	8.1	5/07/2023	SEWER INLET	12,997,000	19.0	110.0	0.1	0.1	7.54	8.5
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<p>(b) the place where the incident occurred</p>	<p><i>i. Description of the Power and Water asset from which the discharge occurred.</i></p> <p>Manhole cover (D/1 D3.4) which is the last inspection point prior to entering the wastewater treatment plant.</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><i>Approximate locations are as follows;</i></p> <p>Discharge Point: 131.0392950E, -12.5182019S (manhole) Final Discharge Point: 131.0393713E, -12.5168879S (end of drain)</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>Public access was possible for an approximate 12 meter section where the sewage crossed a road verge and then down the road edge to the nearest stormwater drain entry.</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 high level alarm was triggered around 23:30hrs 25/10/23, however with the large capacity of the gravity main, the overflow would not have happened for a number of hours after the high level alarm was triggered. The spill was first observed at 12:15hrs 26/10/2023. The spill was controlled by approximately 12:30hrs of 26/10/2023.</p> <p><i>ii. How PWC were notified, or became aware of the discharge.</i></p> <p>The high level alarm within the wastewater treatment plant alerted the on-call operator of an issue.</p> <p><i>iii. The process by which the discharge occurred.</i></p> <p>A blockage within the sewerage system caused the gravity main to fill and the eventual overflow of sewage from the nearby manhole cover. Public education about what can be disposed of into the sewerage system or is flushable In the aim of prevention is available on the Power & Water website and is used as an educational tool for customers. https://www.powerwater.com.au/about/what-we-do/wastewater/sewer-blockages-and-overflows/think-before-you-put-it-down-the-sink</p> <p><i>iv. The reason why the discharge occurred.</i></p> <p><i>Suspected build-up of foreign objects within the sewerage system, caused by people incorrectly disposing of items other than the 3Ps into the sewerage system.</i></p> <p>As per (c) iii.</p>
(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	<p><i>i. Confirmation signage and fencing has been erected, as appropriate.</i></p> <p>No fencing or signage was erected in this instance as during the time the spill cause was being resolved and the area was cleaned, a contractor was on the scene available to warn any members of the public that may have come by the area, and also because the issue was resolved in a timely manner.</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</p>

	Environment. No gross pollutants spilt from the access chamber as the manhole lid was on during the period it overflowed, preventing any gross pollutants from escaping.
(f) the identity of the person notifying the NT EPA	Power and Water's Environmental Team on behalf of Water Services

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Appendix A – Location map



Coolalinga WWTP Sewage Spill

27/10/2023