

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

<b>Date and Time of Notification:</b>	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2023, 11:25hrs
<b>Person / Company:</b>	Power and Water Corporation
<b>Incident:</b>	Discharge of sewage from sewerage network, including privately owned infrastructure

<p><b>(a) the incident causing or threatening to cause pollution</b></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>Rainfall across the Palmerston area has been very localised recently with 18mm recorded at Gray Primary School in the last 7 days and 63.6mm from the Forest Parade Primary School for the same period. Therefore the sewage can only be classified as partially diluted. 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" data-bbox="598 1200 1452 1366"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Sample Date</th> <th rowspan="2">Description</th> <th colspan="2">Bacteriological</th> <th colspan="5">Field Measurements</th> </tr> <tr> <th>E. coli (MPN/100 mL)</th> <th>Enterococci (MPN/100 mL)</th> <th>(DO) (%sat)</th> <th>(DO) (mg/L)</th> <th>EC (mS/cm)</th> <th>Temp (°C)</th> <th>pH (pH units)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>15/03/23</td> <td>SEWER INLET</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>37.4</td> <td>3.16</td> <td>0.5</td> <td>30.57</td> <td>7.69</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15/03/23</td> <td>SEWER INLET</td> <td>15,531,000</td> <td>857,000.0</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>01/03/23</td> <td>SEWER INLET</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>87.5</td> <td>6.64</td> <td>0.388</td> <td>29.67</td> <td>7.13</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.</p>	Sample Date	Description	Bacteriological		Field Measurements					E. coli (MPN/100 mL)	Enterococci (MPN/100 mL)	(DO) (%sat)	(DO) (mg/L)	EC (mS/cm)	Temp (°C)	pH (pH units)	15/03/23	SEWER INLET			37.4	3.16	0.5	30.57	7.69	15/03/23	SEWER INLET	15,531,000	857,000.0						01/03/23	SEWER INLET			87.5	6.64	0.388	29.67	7.13
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<p><b>(b) the place where the incident occurred</b></p>	<p><i>i. Description of the Power and Water asset from which the discharge occurred.</i></p> <p>Manhole cover (1/1 D2.95) which is the last inspection point prior to entering a sewage pumping station (SPS) within a privately owned WWTP.</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: 131.0390108E, -12.5168666S (manhole) Final Discharge Point: 131.0390558E, -12.5167462S (open land)</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 is not possible, the area adjoins another fully fenced WWTP, the small adjoining WWTP is also fully fenced and a large portion of the remaining property boundary is fenced and has concrete blocks placed at key locations to prevent vehicle access. Swamp bushland is located to the north, making public access very unlikely.</p>
<b>(c) the date and time of the incident</b>	<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 observed at approximately 11:30hrs by Power and Water staff on 22/03/2023, and the spill was controlled by approximately 12:00hrs of 22/03/2023.</p> <p><i>ii. How PWC were notified, or became aware of the discharge.</i></p> <p>This overflow was discovered by a Power and Water staff member attending site on an unrelated matter. Power and Water's Environmental Services was advised of the overflow shortly after being discovered, 22/03/2023.</p> <p><i>iii. The process by which the discharge occurred.</i></p> <p>It was found that the privately owned sewage SPS that the reticulated sewage flows into had failed due to a mechanical issue.</p> <p><i>iv. The reason why the discharge occurred.</i></p> <p>As per (c) iii. Both pumps within the SPS had failed.</p>
<b>(d) how the pollution has occurred, is occurring or may occur</b>	As per (c) iii & (c) iv.
<b>(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</b>	<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 the area surrounding the spill is already largely fenced or has swamp bushland as a natural barrier to 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. The Power and Water access chamber had sewage vacuumed from it to lower the level until such time that the SPS was repaired. No gross pollutants spilt from the access chamber as the manhole lid was on during the period it overflowed.</p>
<b>(f) the identity of the person notifying the NT EPA</b>	Power and Water's Environmental Team on behalf of Water Services

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### Appendix A – Location map



Appendix B – Photographs of the spill site



Figure1. Power & Water Manhole cover 1/1. Source: C. Briscoe



Figure 2. Overflowing SPS within the privately owned WWTP. Source: C. Briscoe – Power & Water