

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

|                                       |                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Date and Time of Notification:</b> | Wednesday 8 January 2020, 11:50am                                        |
| <b>Person / Company:</b>              | Helen Dwyer (on behalf of)<br>Power and Water Corporation ( <b>PWC</b> ) |
| <b>Incident:</b>                      | Discharge of raw sewage from sewerage network                            |

(a) the incident causing or threatening to cause pollution

*i. Description of the waste that was discharged.*

Raw sewage (no gross pollutants).

*ii. Indicative wastewater quality for the discharge.*

Rainfall received in the 7 days preceding the overflow was 14.2 mm (based on Bureau of Meteorology rainfall data for the Darwin Airport station – no. 014015). Therefore, it is believed that raw sewage (i.e. undiluted) has overflowed from the sewerage network. Indicative quality of the sewerage is provided in Table 1 below (see average dry weather flows).

**Table 1: Inflow to Ludmilla Wastewater Treatment Plant**

| Inflow volume          | median inflow<br>kL | median E coli | 90th percentile<br>inflow kL | 90th percentile<br>E coli |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| below ADWF             | 11,040              | 11,199,000    | 12,925                       | 15,531,000                |
| >ADWF (14.5 ML/day)    | 15,274              | 9,804,000     | 22,206                       | 17,148,300                |
| >2x ADWF (29.0 ML/day) | 31,673              | 4,884,000     | 37,166                       | 14,385,600                |
| >3x ADWF (43.5 ML/day) | 43,629              | 4,611,000     | 50,506                       | 12,843,600                |
| >5x ADWF (72.5 ML/day) | 71,558              | 5,002,000     | 78,578                       | 5,905,200                 |

(ADWF= Average Dry Weather Flow ~14.5 ML/day)

*iii. Volume of the waste that was discharged.*

The volume of waste discharged is unknown.

This overflow was reported to PWC by a member of the public. The member of the public reported the overflow to the PWC call centre at 9:39am on 8 January 2020. The PWC job dispatch centre reported the overflow as a fault, and Water/Sewer Reticulation staff were informed at 10:15am on 8 January 2020.

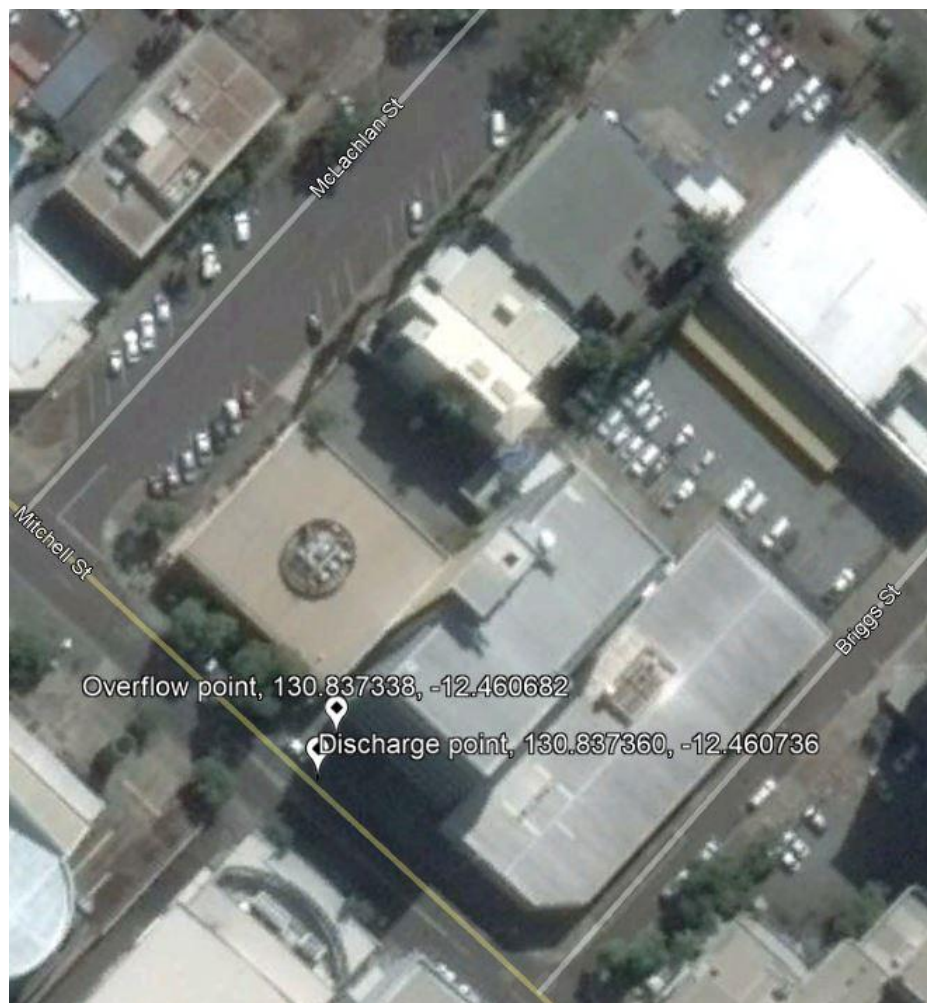
PWC staff attended the site immediately. The exact start time of the overflow is unknown, however, PWC staff attended the site at 10:30am on 8 January 2019, and the overflow was stopped at 11:00am on 8 January 2019.

Discharge of raw sewage to the pathway and roadside occurred due to a foreign obstruction in the pipe, resulting in the overflow.

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| <b>(b) the place where the incident occurred</b> | <p>80 Mitchell Street, Darwin City – from property micro-flap and inspection shaft – see photograph.</p> <p><i>i. Description of the PWC asset from which the discharge occurred.</i></p> <p>Property micro-flap and inspection shaft, located at the front of the building at 80 Mitchell Street, Darwin City. See map.</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>Overflow Point: 130.837338, -12.460682<br/>Discharge Point (road kerbside; approximate): 130.837360, -12.460736</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 by the public in this area is frequent. Upon PWC crew attending the overflow the site was cordoned off with witches hats which were supervised by PWC staff to prevent access by the public. Upon resolution of the blockage the area was cleaned comprehensively to ensure the area was safe for the public to access immediately.</p> <p>Clean up was undertaken as per Sewage Spills/Overflow Response Work Instruction. The site was disinfected and rinsed with fresh water. The fresh water was sourced from the PWC harben truck, which has a water storage tank on it. The water storage tank is filled from fire hydrants. Approximately 2,000L of water was flushed down the curb and into the stormwater, to dilute any sewerage in the stormwater system.</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. PWC became aware of the overflow at approximately 9:40am on 8 January 2019, and the overflow was stopped by 11:00am on 8 January 2019.</p> <p><i>ii. How PWC were notified, or became aware of the discharge.</i></p> <p>This overflow was discovered by a member of the public and was reported to the PWC call centre, who then relayed the information to the on-call PWC operations staff. PWC personnel attended the site at approximately 10:30am (8/01/2020) and undertook action to resolve the situation. From this PWC staff resolved the overflow and cleaned the area.</p> <p><i>iii. The process by which the discharge occurred.</i></p> <p>A blockage occurred in the sewerage pipe, which was a foreign obstruction. This caused an overflow. The foreign obstruction was removed.</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/businesses; rather discharge is designed to occur in a controlled</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

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|                                                                                                                                                                                | manner at locations which can be accessed for infrastructure repair and clean up and with minimal public health or environmental impacts.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <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>The blockage was cleared and the overflow was stopped. Clean up undertaken as per Sewage Spills/Overflow Response Work Instruction.</p> <p><i>i. Confirmation signage and fencing has been erected, as appropriate.</i></p> <p>Upon PWC crew attending the overflow the site was cordoned off with witches hats which were supervised by PWC staff to prevent access by the public. Upon resolution of the blockage the area was cleaned comprehensively to ensure the area was safe for the public to access immediately. Due to the location temporary fencing was not appropriate. Therefore cleaning undertaken was performed to ensure access by the public immediately after resolution of the blockage was safe.</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 area was disinfected and flushed with fresh water. See photographs provided below.</p> |
| <b>(f) the identity of the person notifying the NT EPA</b>                                                                                                                     | Helen Dwyer, EcOz Environmental Consultants, on behalf of PWC Environmental Team/PWC Water Services                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

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Map of overflow and discharge point, note discharge point is approximate (sewage reported to kerbside and ran down road to stormwater drain).



Property micro-flap vent and inspection shaft, from which discharge occurred.



Photographs of overflow area after it has been cleaned up, disinfected and rinsed.