Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority

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

Date and Time of Notification:	Tuesday 6th April 2021, 16:00 hrs
Person / Company:	Power and Water Corporation (**PWC**)
Incident:	Discharge of sewage from sewerage network, Sewage Pumping Station

(a) the incident causing or threatening to cause pollution	*i. Description of the waste that was discharged.* Untreated sewage *ii. Indicative wastewater quality for the discharge.* Indicative wastewater quality, without dilution, can be found in Table 1. Table 1 includes wastewater quality results from the Pirlangimpi Wastewater Stabilisation Pond 1 inlet. Table 1 Sample Date / E. Coli (MPN/100mL) / Enterococci (MPN/100mL) 2/03/2021 / 556,000 / 41,400 2/02/2021 / 496,000 / 45,500 5/01/2021 / 686,700 / 12,660 Location: SPI001 (WQ-PIRLANGIMPI POND 1 INLET) *iii. Volume of the waste that was discharged.* The volume of wastewater discharged is unknown. No telemetric monitoring occurs at the site of discharge. Based on consumption rates and duration of power outage, the overflow volume is believed to be approximately 112 Kilolitres.
(b) the place where the incident occurred	*i. Description of the PWC asset from which the discharge occurred.* Pirlangimpi (Garden Point) sewage pumping station (SPS1), located at lot 376 Pirlangimpi Road, Pirlangimpi. *ii. GPS coordinates of the discharge point from the PWC asset, and the final coordinates of the final discharge point.* Discharge Point: 130.4120985E, -11.4069154S Final Discharge Point: 130.4077000E, -11.4056000S

	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. Access to the public is possible but unlikely, as the discharge point is located below the high tide mark going into the Apsley Strait.
(c) the date and time of the incident	*i. The time and date of commencement and cessation of the discharge.* The exact timing of the overflow is unknown, but would have occurred sometime after 07:50hrs 02/04/2021, after the power to the pumps was switched off and the wet well began to slowly fill up. Power to the pump station was restored at 15:15hrs 03/04/2021 at which point the pumps started to operate again and the overflow would have ceased shortly after. *ii. How PWC were notified, or became aware of the discharge.* The Essential Services Operator (ESO) who lives in close proximity to the pump station was the first to notice a problem at his residence at around 15:00hrs 03/04/2021. He then proceeded to the pump station and restored power to the pumps. *iii. The process by which the discharge occurred.* As part of the routine maintenance of the sewage pump station, the pump's float switches are periodically cleaned; on the morning of the 2nd of April, the ESO turned off the pumps to conduct this maintenance but failed to turn them back on again once he had finished the cleaning. Over the following 31 hours, until the issue was noticed by the ESO, the wet well slowly filled up and eventually overflowed. Once power was restored at 15:15hrs, 03/04/2021, pumps resumed and dropped effluent levels within the wet well, stopping the overflow and operation of the SPS returned to normal. *iv. The reason why the discharge occurred.* As per (c) iii, operator error.
(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. Confirmation signage and fencing has been erected, as appropriate.* No signage or fencing was erected in this instance; as the spill occurred directly into Apsley Strait, where it was diluted. *ii. Decontamination of the site as appropriate.* Clean up consistent with Sewage Spills/Overflow Response Work Instruction as appropriate to the location. Site was inspected for any wastewater gross pollutants, of which none were observed.
(f) the identity of the person notifying the NT EPA	PWC Environmental Team on behalf of Water Services

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Appendix A – Location Map (Pirlangimpi SPS)

Appendix B – Location Photograph – Discharge point into Apsley Strait

File photo, taken 21st October 2020