Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority

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

Date and Time of Notification:	18/05/2022
Person / Company:	Ben McTavish/ RTA Gove Pty Ltd
Incident:	RDA SPL Spill (RTBS #1000606317) NT EPA Reference #PRL10833

(a) the incident causing or threatening to cause pollution	On Monday 9 May, a Spent Process Liquor (SPL) leak was identified from a wastewater transfer line in the RDA. The line was being used to transfer SPL from the refinery to the RDA. SPL was released to the ground within the RDA footprint. Given the location of the leak and ground, some diluted SPL flowed into an on-site pond (known as Duck Pond) with rain events. A coffer dam was raised downstream of the Duck Pond weir to maximise containment of water within the Duck Pond footprint. On the evening of Wednesday 11 May, Duck Pond water levels exceeded the coffer dam height due to rainfall resulting in partial loss of containment of water impounded within the Duck Pond.
(b) the place where the incident occurred	The coffer dam was raised downstream of the Duck Pond weir. Coffer dam location: -12.192647, 136.711132 
(c) the date and time of the incident	On Wednesday 11 May at 17:30 water was observed spilling over the coffer dam by the personnel monitoring the area. The overflow ceased on Thursday 12 May at 15:00 after completion of reinstatement of the coffer dam.
(d) how the pollution has occurred, is occurring or may occur	Rain events occurred on the 11 May, this caused the level of water impounded within the Duck Pond to raise above the coffer dam height and spilled over into the Duck Pond creek.

(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	In the attempt to contain water within the Duck Pond, the following actions were implemented: • A coffer dam was initially raised downstream of the Duck Pond weir to contain water within the Duck Pond footprint. • A medium-capacity pump was installed and commenced pumping the contents of the Duck Pond into the RDA Pond 2 on Tuesday 10 May. • Intensive environmental monitoring of the area, including downstream of the coffer dam and the marine receiving environment. • Coffer dam wall was reinforced on Thursday 12 May following further rain events to cease discharge. • A high-capacity pump was installed to accelerate water transfer from the Duck Pond to Pond 2 and commenced transfer on Saturday 14 May. • Daily drone footage of the Duck Pond, Duck Pond Creek and marine receiving environment have been recorded. • Duck Pond has been pumped down and is currently being flushed with sea water. Currently, water is contained in the Duck Pond below the pond weir.
(f) the identity of the person notifying the NT EPA	Ben McTavish, Superintendent Environment, RTA Gove Pty Ltd