

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

Date and Time of Notification:	Friday 13/0/2022 08:24hrs
Person / Company:	Power and Water Corporation (PWC)
Incident:	Spill of fully treated effluent

(a) the incident causing or threatening to cause pollution	<i>i. Description of the waste that was discharged.</i> Fully treated effluent. <i>ii. Indicative wastewater quality for the discharge.</i> The overflow was fully treated effluent, from the irrigation field. No recent wastewater quality data is available from this remote site. <i>iii. Volume of the waste that was discharged.</i> The volume of waste discharged is unknown as the spill emanated from an unmetered location.
(b) the place where the incident occurred	<i>i. Description of the PWC asset from which the discharge occurred.</i> Areyonga wastewater stabilisation ponds, irrigation field, Areyonga. <i>ii. GPS coordinates of the discharge point from the PWC asset, and the final coordinates of the final discharge point.</i> Discharge Point: 132.2648071 E, -24.0838911 S (irrigation field sprinkler) Final discharge point: 132.2644820 E, -24.0848079 S <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> Overflow is from the irrigation field, after the four treatment ponds, so the effluent is “fully” treated. The spill predominantly pooled within the irrigation field, with some effluent having run across the airstrip access road and into the adjacent bushland.
(c) the date and time of the incident	<i>i. The time and date of commencement and cessation of the discharge.</i> The exact start time is unknown but it was sometime on the morning of the 12th July 2022. The sprinkler was repaired by mid-morning of the 13th July 2022. The sprinkler was only operational during the pre-set irrigation times.

	<i>ii. How PWC were notified, or became aware of the discharge.</i> The Essential Services Operator (ESO) looking after the facility notified the Water and Sewage Technical Coordinator. Environmental Services became aware of the event from the Remote Services Acting Service Coordinator. <i>iii. The process by which the discharge occurred.</i> A polyethylene plastic threaded connector underneath the sprinkler head had broken allowing effluent to come directly out of the 20mm sprinkler riser pipe, without resistance from the sprinkler head. Because of this the effluent was not dispersed evenly across the irrigation field, but rather focused in one area. <i>iv. The reason why the discharge occurred.</i> The plastic threaded connector failed under pressure due to becoming brittle from age, and potentially deterioration from sun exposure.
(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>i. Confirmation signage and fencing has been erected, as appropriate.</i> Fencing not appropriate in this instance, as the only place where direct contact is possible is on a roadway. As the road is a considerable distance from the community, it is not envisaged for pedestrians to be in this location, only minimal vehicle traffic. The effluent is expected to dry up imminently, given that the sprinkler has been repaired and effluent is now evenly dispersed over a greater area. As such, no signage has been erected. <i>ii. Decontamination of the site as appropriate.</i> Overflow is fully treated effluent that has passed through 3 treatment ponds, sewage debris is not present. Natural processes (UV disinfection) will provide disinfection of the discharge.
(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



Appendix B – Photograph of the spill area and damaged sprinkler.



