Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority

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

Date and Time of Notification:	Tuesday 21St January 2025, 14:30hrs
Person / Company:	Power and Water Corporation
Incident:	Discharge of sewage from sewerage network – Manhole Cover

(a) the incident causing or threatening to cause pollution	*i. Description of the waste that was discharged.* Raw sewage *ii. Indicative wastewater quality for the discharge.* There was no wastewater quality data available for the Umbakumba ponds inlet. The most representative data available is from the nearby Angurugu community waste stabilisation ponds inlet. See below for indicative wastewater quality data. *iii. Volume of the waste that was discharged.* The volume of waste discharged is unknown. No telemetric monitoring occurs at this location. An estimate from the plumber was 5 kilolitres. This is based on the small number of houses that feed that section of the sewer main.
(b) the place where the incident occurred	*i. Description of the PWC asset from which the discharge occurred.* The overflow emanated from a manhole cover (5/3) behind the premisses of lot 151 Miyamurda Street, Umbakumba *ii. GPS coordinates of the discharge point from the PWC asset, and the final coordinates of the final discharge point.* Discharge Point: 136.8118906E, 13.8573439S (manhole) Final discharge point: 136.8136870E, 13.8552025S (Arafura Sea)

Sample Date	E. coli (MPN/100 mL)	Biochemical Oxygen Demand (mg/L)	Nitrate as N (NO3-N) (mg/L)	Nitrite as N (NO2-N) (mg/L)	pH (lab)	Phosphorus - Total mg/L
17/1/2025	648,800.0					
10/10/2024	410,600.0	12.0	0.1	0.1	6.8	3.1
9/7/2024	2,419,600.0	52.0	0.1	0.1	6.85	3.0
11/6/2024	686,700.0	44.0	0.1	0.4	6.78	2.7

	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 was possible for the duration of the spill, however it emanated from behind residential houses and not within people's yards or recreational areas.
(c) the date and time of the incident	*i. The time and date of commencement and cessation of the discharge.* The commencement time of the spill is unknown but was first observed by the USCW at 11:30hrs 18/01/2025. The spill could not be stopped by the USC worker; therefore, a vacuum truck was sent to the scene to unblock the sewer main and recover what was possible and dispose of at the wastewater stabilisation ponds. As the USCW could not rectify the issue on his own, plumbers had to be contracted. The blockage was rectified, and the spill ceased on the 20/01/2025, time unknown. *ii. How PWC were notified or became aware of the discharge.* Power and Water was notified by the Utility Services Contract worker after observing the spill as part of his routine inspections. *iii. The process by which the discharge occurred.* The overflow occurred due to a blockage of the sewer main, the blockage was caused by foreign objects disposed of into the sewerage system; these frequently include clothing, bedding sheets and other foreign objects, which is common in remote communities. *iv. The reason why the discharge occurred.* As per (c) iii.
(d) how the pollution has occurred, is occurring or may occur	As per (c) iii & (c) iv. A large portion of the spill that could not be recovered by vacuum truck did end up flowing through a small swamp area and then to a small tidal creek nearby. There were no obvious signs of any adverse effects caused by the spill. There was a high tide of 1.9m and a low of 0.8m on the day of the spill.
(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. The area that the spill flowed through was too great to fence. *ii. Decontamination of the site as appropriate.* Clean up consistent with Sewage Spills/Overflow Response Work Instruction as appropriate to the location, and to minimise risk to the environment.
(f) the identity of the person notifying the NT EPA	Power and Water's Environmental Team on behalf of Water Services

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Appendix A – Location map.

Appendix B – Location Photographs