

WATER AND WASTE COMMITTEE 15 FEBRUARY 2012	3
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ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR WATER & WASTE

Lynne Powell: 1/58/13-23: #3220809v7

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that this report be noted.

INTRODUCTION:

This report presents a summary of environmental incidents that occurred as a result of the Water & Waste Department's operations and activities during the month of January 2012.

BACKGROUND:

The Water and Waste Department uses an Environmental Management System (EMS) to manage and control all aspects of water, sewerage and solid waste activities that have a potential to impact on the environment and to ensure a continuous improvement framework is in place for management of environmental risks. Whilst the protection of the environment through the prevention of incidents is paramount, the nature of the Department's operations and activities and the tropical climate can lead to incidents beyond our direct control.

Incidents that do occur are reported to the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) both at the time of the occurrence and in a summary monthly report. The following incidents occurred during January 2012.

1. Water

No environmental incidents to report.

2. Waste

No environmental incidents to report.

3. Sewerage

Location and Date	License Breach	Incident Summary	Corrective Actions
Marlin Coast WWTP 6-12 th December 2011	No	A number of ducks dying at two Marlin Coast WWTP lagoons around the 6 th -12 th December, 2011. The cause of the duck deaths was Avian Botulism as confirmed by laboratory tests conducted by DEEDI Biosecurity.	Council operations will continue maintaining the amenity of the lagoons by cleaning away all dead duck and fish carcasses. This has contributed to reducing the risk of transmission of avian botulism. Operations will conduct weekly inspections of the lagoons around high risk times of the year – high temperatures and low rainfall.
Marlin Coast WWTP 13 th January 2012	Yes	Break in a newly replaced connection on the recirculation line to the chlorine contact tank. This caused a release of reuse water off site to the nearby discharge channel of approximately 10-20KL.	The recirculation line was isolated as soon as practicable after identifying the issue. Plumbers have retightened the connections on all new plumbing work and will continue to monitor.
Marlin Coast WWTP 16 th January 2012	Yes	A full plant bypass of 23.29 KL occurred intermittently on 15th and 16th January 2012. The incident occurred after heavy and consistent rainfall fell in the catchment and subsequent high volume inflows to the treatment plant.	Treatment Plant Operators immediately monitored the incident. Operations were able to reinstate normal operating activities as soon as possible after inflow volumes commenced receding. Regular maintenance on sewer pipes is conducted by Water and Waste.

Location and Date	License Breach	Incident Summary	Corrective Actions
Marlin Coast WWTP 24 th January 2012	Yes	A full plant bypass of approx 110.45 KL occurred intermittently on 24th January 2012. The incident occurred after heavy and consistent rainfall fell in the catchment and subsequent high volume inflows to the treatment plant.	Council Operations immediately monitored the incident. Operations were able to reinstate normal operating activities as soon as possible after inflow volumes commenced receding. Regular maintenance on sewer pipes is conducted by Water and Waste.
Active Overflow at Babinda: Peever Road	No	Heavy rainfall and infiltration in the catchment area.	Council operations Monitored B1 Pump station and the overflow site until overflow came back to compliance.

COMMENT:

Water and Waste conduct debriefs for significant incidents and these have been effective in identifying opportunities to improve operational procedures.

CONSIDERATIONS:**Corporate and Operational Plans:**

Appropriate environmental management of Water and Waste's activities supports Goal 1 'Caring for the Environment', of Council's Corporate Plan 2009-2014.

Policy:

The Water and Waste EMS is consistent with Council's General Policy 'Protection of the Natural Environment'.

Statutory:

The Water and Waste Department manages a number of Environmentally Relevant Activities and is required to comply with a number of DERM licences in addition to various provisions of the *Environment Protection Act 1994* and subordinate legislation.

Financial and Risk:

Effective implementation of the EMS will reduce financial risks. Failure to respond quickly and effectively to environmental incidents may result in harm to the environment and substantial penalties.

Sustainability:

The Water and Waste Department aims to ensure that infrastructure is sustainable in the long term and copes with current and future growth and environmental licence limitations. The primary focus of the EMS is to ensure that Water and Waste complies with all relevant legislation and licence conditions.

CONSULTATION:

DERM is advised of all incidents. The Water and Waste Department consults, on an as needs basis, with regulatory authorities for development approvals.

CONCLUSION:

It is recommended that Council note the environmental management report for December 2011.

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