**MEDIA RELEASE**

**FIGURES PROVE NOTHING**

Peter Chandler MLA

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Today’s release of outfall discharge figures the Chief Minister claimed would ‘categorically prove’ sewerage is not responsible for recent Ecoli and Enterococci outbreaks in Darwin Harbour actually prove nothing.

Shadow Environment Minister, Peter Chandler, said the figures are mixed, but point to seriously high Ecoli levels coming out of the Palmerston, Berrimah, Leanyer-Sanderson and Larrakeyah outfalls.

“These figures raise more questions than they answer, and only add to the confusion surrounding the cause of the outbreaks,” Mr Chandler said.

“What they do show is that discharge levels, particularly in Palmerston and Berrimah, are consistently above recommended median Ecoli levels.

“How can the Chief Minister and Environment Minister say with absolute certainty that nutrients contained in sewerage are not contributing to the bacteria outbreaks?

“They can’t prove that. To make such an assertion is ludicrous.

“What the figures do show is that it is crucial the Government finds the source of the Ecoli and Enterococci outbreaks as soon as possible rather than speculating on what isn’t the source.”

Mr Chandler also questioned the timing of the release of the Power Water and NRETAS test results.

“Paul Henderson said this morning he’d already seen the test results. It’s surprising then that the Government waited until 4.30 this afternoon to release the results to media.

“I would expect the release of figures relating to yesterday’s closure of Mindil and Nightcliff beaches in a significantly more timely fashion.”

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