

Fines for river polluters

PENALTY: Action to be taken against IWK, 8 others for polluting Sungai Batu Ferringhi

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INDAH Water Konsortium Sdn Bhd and eight polluters will face penalty in the form of compounds or a court action for polluting Sungai Batu Ferringhi.

State Department of Environment director Datuk Hassan Mat said it was preparing documentation on the matter and hoped to finalise it by next month.

“We will decide the form of punishment once we have completed it,” Hassan told the *New Straits Times*.

Last month, Local Government Committee chairman Chow Kon Yeow identified IWK, six eateries, a car wash centre and a laundrette as the culprits behind the Sungai Batu Ferringhi pollution.



A black substance being discharged into Sungai Batu Ferringhi recently. Pic by Amir Irsyad Omar

IWK came under fire from many quarters, including environmental groups, hoteliers and tourists, after it was found that its pipes from the sewage treatment plant in Batu Ferringhi was discharging a black substance into the river.

Checks showed the black substance contained high levels

of *E. coli*.

Hassan said the department's enforcement team was looking at each polluter separately to determine the damage it had contributed to the river and the environment.

“We are referring them to the relevant provisions under the En-

vironmental Quality Act 1974.

“The form of punishment will depend on the damage they had done to the river and environment.”

IWK has maintained that its sewage treatment plant was not responsible for polluting Sungai Batu Ferringhi.