

Council rates certain to rise

Katie Weiss

ALICE Springs' rates are almost certain to rise next year as the town council is forced to reassess its budget in the face of scheduled hikes in power costs.

Alice Springs Town Council chief executive Rex Mooney said ratepayers incurred about \$1 million power costs annually, which included public lighting.

"Subject to council's

Costs hit by rising power and water bills

own energy efficiency initiatives, there is every likelihood that increased power costs will be reflected in next year's rates," he said.

"There has to be consideration of passing on the costs to the ratepayer but council will make every effort to minimise those costs."

NT Treasurer Robyn

Lambley has warned that tariff increases would be "substantial and they will be painful", with a 2009 report recommending electricity costs increase by 40 per cent and water by about 60 per cent over three years.

Mr Mooney said council would need to review its budget before

the next financial year on July 1 if the NT Government increased tariffs before then.

He said the Local Government Association NT was raising its concerns on behalf of all councils across the Territory with the NT Government.

Ms Lambley said the increase in

PowerWater Corporation (PWC) tariffs would be revealed before the NT Government's mini-budget on December 4.

She would not say when the increases would hit but said a PWC review would be completed in February next year.

At a CLP annual gen-

eral meeting last Friday, she said the impact of power and water bills would be "minimal" for pensioners and those who accessed Centrelink and indigenous essential services.

Deputy Mayor Brendan Heenan said council would need to look at making spending cuts to lessen the

impact on ratepayers, and invest in renewable energies.

He said council might include solar panels and water-saving irrigation systems in its budget to cut down on power and water expenses.

Chamber of Commerce NT chief executive of the Central Australian branch Kay Eade said she hoped the Government would allow businesses time to budget in the new costs before enforcing them.



Curator Stephen Williamson with some of the 80 works that are part of the Papunya Tula exhibition at Araluen

Private art on show

Cameron Boon

A COLOSSAL exhibition created from the private collections of Alice Springs art lovers opens tomorrow.

The 80 piece *Unique Perspectives: Papunya Tula Artists and the Alice Springs Community* was created to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Papunya Tula Artists and will be hosted at the Araluen Arts Centre for five months.

Araluen curator Stephen Williamson said the exhibition was full of many "firsts" for the centre.

"This is the first time Araluen has borrowed works from the community to create an exhibition," he said.

"It's quite an extensive show, with works coming from 48 artists over four decades.

"This exhibition is a celebration of the Alice Springs community and the interactions

'This exhibition is a celebration of the Alice Springs community'

and history they share with the Papunya Tula artists." Williamson said the paintings were hanging in a chronological order – with the oldest consisting of more muted palates and earth-toned colours and the paintings getting brighter and more experimental as the exhibition goes on.

"As you move through the space, you'll see shifts of colours," he said.

"Of our 48 artists, we have featured works from nine artists."

Unique Perspectives: Papunya Tula Artists and the Alice Springs Community will open at 11am tomorrow and will run until April 17.

Police fear drunk drivers will end up killing somebody

DRUNK drivers have Alice Springs police deeply concerned there will be a fatal crash before Christmas.

The most recent alleged offender was held by another driver he crashed into on Wednesday night.

Watch Commander Darrell Kerr said a drunk 47-year-old made a U-turn into oncoming traffic on the north Stuart Highway.

"Both vehicles suffered extensive damage, the drunk driver then drove off south along an unnamed road followed by the driver of the Suzuki he had crashed into," Cmdr Kerr said.

"As the drunk driver attempted to run on foot he was caught by the other driver who telephoned police and held on to him until police arrived."

The offender was charged with high range drink driving (.178), driving disqualified, driving without due care, leaving the scene of an accident and driving an unregistered uninsured motor vehicle.

He was refused bail and appeared in the Alice Springs Court of Summary Jurisdiction yesterday.

Sergeant Conan Rob-

ertson of the traffic division said another two high-range drink drivers caught recently had previously lost their licences for similar of-

fences and both were carrying unrestrained passengers.

"There will be a tragic result if some people's attitude to driving

doesn't improve dramatically," he said.

"Both of these drivers had a responsibility for the passengers in the vehicles and would have

been held accountable if something happened to them, not only through legal proceedings but by the families of the people involved."



CSIRO congratulates members of Merne Altyerr-ipenhe (Food from the Creation time) reference group, Josie Douglas and Dr Fiona Walsh who won the Desert Knowledge category in the 2012 NT Research and Innovation Award for their bush foods project.

Thank-you to Myra Ah Chee, MK Turner (OAM), Veronica Dobson (AM), Lorna Wilson, Rayleen Brown, Bess Price, Gina Smith and Maree Meredith of Central Land Council for your invaluable roles in the research.



 Northern Territory Government

Applications for 2013 International Women's Day grants close soon

Small grants are available for local groups and organisations to celebrate International Women's Day and the progress towards gender equality.

Download an application form from www.women.nt.gov.au or call 8999 2703 for more information. Applications close **23 November 2012**.

 International Women's Day