Acting Chief Minister and Treasurer, Robyn Lambley, and Essential Services Minister, Willem Westra van Holthe, today inspected the new zone substation at Woolner.

Ms Lambley said the new $43.3 million substation was due for completion mid 2013 and would replace the Snell Street Zone Substation, which is approaching the end of its operational life.

“This new infrastructure demonstrates why the Mills Government was forced to increase power and water tariffs on January 1st,” Ms Lambley said.

“In 2008, following the catastrophic failure at the Casuarina Zone Substation, a review into Power Water Corporation determined that a systematic works programme be instituted across power, water and sewerage. The Corporation commenced a $1.8 billion dollar capital works program in 2009.

The new Woolner Zone Substation was part of these works.

“Rather than raise tariffs, as recommended by the 2009 Reeves report to help cover this massive infrastructure spend, Labor refused to deal with the problem and instead let the Corporation and the NT Government plunge deeper into debt.

“As a result Territorians are now paying $750,000 a day in interest repayments alone.

“I know the recent tariff increases will impact Territorians but they are absolutely necessary.

“They are about keeping the lights on for Territorians while reigning in debt. Over the forward projections there will be $400 million less debt because of the tariff increases.

“The $43.3 million Woolner Zone Substation will have all equipment housed indoors allowing for greater protection from storms and other environmental impacts.

“It is expected to have a 50 year life span and will deliver power directly the commercial areas of Winnellie as well as the residential areas of Fannie Bay, Parap, Stuart Park and The Gardens. It will also support the City, Casuarina and Berrimah Zone Substations.

“Only the Country Liberals are prepared to take the tough but necessary actions to ensure that debt is brought under control and the lights stay on.”

Media Contact:
Lisa Andrews 0401 579 963

www.nt.gov.au
GPO Box 3146, Darwin NT 0801