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$126 M PROJECT POWERING THE FUTURE

Essential Services Minister Rob Knight said the new $126.6 million Weddell Power Station project will ensure the future electricity needs of Darwin and Palmerston can be met, particularly as the Inpex project develops.

Mr Knight inspected progress on construction of the power station on Channel Island Road this afternoon.

“This is the largest electricity generation project in the Territory in more than 20 years, and it will truly power our future,” Mr Knight said.

“The new power station will add 30% capacity to Darwin and Palmerston’s power supply – outstripping the forecast growth in peak demand of 3% baseline growth in the Darwin and Katherine region.”

“We worked hard to secure the Inpex project for Darwin – projects like the Weddell Power Station will ensure we are ready for the future.”

The Weddell Power Station is being constructed by GE Energy and United Group Infrastructure.

Work on the project commenced in April 2007, and the first of three generators came on line in March this year.

The second generator is in place and undergoing performance tests, and the third generator is on track to be on line by in 2010/11.

“To date, more than 40 Territory businesses have secured contracts for the project worth about $8 million – and that means more jobs for Territorians,” said Mr Knight.

“Including the Weddell Power Station, the Government is investing almost $190 million to expand power, water and sewerage systems across Darwin and Palmerston.

“The Inpex project holds great opportunities and potential for the Territory, and we will be ready for it.”

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