Terry Mills
Leader of the Opposition
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POWER Rebates to the People

Darwin households should prepare for repeated blackouts well into the future is the message from departing PowerWater general manager Alastair Parker.

“The likelihood of more blackouts requires decisive action from the Henderson Government,” says Terry Mills, Leader of the Opposition.

“Having jacked up the price of power by 25% the Henderson Government must introduce standing rebates for power supply interruptions in line with increased power prices.

“Leaving the issue of power rebates to the whim of the Essential Services Minister is a dud recipe for electricity consumers.

“In December last year the Utilities Commissioner recommended rebates of $80 for each unplanned interruption of 12 hours and $125 if the total duration of unplanned interruptions exceeded 20 hours.

“The Country Liberals would adopt those recommendations, add 25% to the rebates making them $100 and $155 respectively and apply them to customers on the grid in Darwin, Alice Springs, Katherine and Tennant Creek.

“Alastair Parker also exposed the Henderson Government’s claims that it did not know the extent of the crisis facing the Northern Territory power industry.

On radio this morning, Mr Parker said:

The team of people I see at PowerWater, they’re really, really starting to hit some runs now. They’ve wanted to get on and fix this for a long time, they haven’t necessarily had the opportunity to do it …

In other words, the Government refused to listen to advice from PowerWater management, as well as independent agencies like the Utilities Commission, that the network was being run into the ground.
Because of the Government’s negligence, Territorians can expect further price hikes in addition to the 25% increase to electricity and 70% to water lumped on consumers by the Government.

“It hardly provides comfort to hard-working Territorians that Mr Parker said price increases could be avoided by Territory householders if only they use less electricity and water.”

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