Lovegrove Zone Substation to commence testing this week

Minister for Essential Services, Rob Knight today announced that testing of the upgraded Lovegrove Zone Substation in Alice Springs will commence this week.

Minister Knight said as part of the Territory Governments $160 million investment to improve the electricity supply in Alice Springs, two 25km 66,000 volt power circuits have been constructed to connect the new Owen Springs power station to the town.

“This testing is an essential part of the process to ensure the new power system is safe and robust.

“Once the Owen Springs project is completed it will increase the generation capacity by 30 per cent and meet growing demand into the future for Alice Springs,” Minister Knight said.

Minister for Central Australia, Karl Hampton said: “The Owen Springs Power Station project will become one of the most efficient power stations of its size. It uses natural gas which produces up to a third less CO2 than other fuel sources.”
“The project is a valuable boost to the local economy - in total the project has provided a $10.5 million injection into the local economy, helping to support more than 100 jobs as well as 16 local businesses during the course of the project,” Minister Hampton said.

Both Power and Water Corporation and Man Diesel and their contractors have transformed what was a greenfield site in 2008 into a complete power station with new fuel, wastewater and water systems, and other complex supporting infrastructure.

The Owen Springs Power Station project with associated works includes:
• three 10.9MW dual fuel units;
• two 66,000 volt high voltage transmission circuits between the Owen Springs Power Station switchyard and Lovegrove substations;
• gas spur pipeline from the Palm Valley/Alice Springs to Owen Springs Power Station;
• a mix of overhead and underground lines.

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