Minister for Essential Services, Willem Westra van Holthe, has corrected a media release put out by Member for Nhulunbuy, Lynne Walker.

Ms. Walker’s media release alleges that Power and Water Corporation (PWC) “had trouble supplying enough power tokens to keep the lights on” in Yirrkala.

Ms. Walker further alleges that there was “little information available to residents” about electricity price changes.

Mr Westra van Holthe has dismissed the media release as a cheap shot based on lies and the misfortune of others.

“Ms. Walker has come out guns blazing, shooting off lies and none of the facts,” Mr Westra van Holthe said.

“Residents were informed of the changes: brochures were distributed on how to reduce power usage and at times an interpreter was used to ensure the message was filtered throughout the community.

“The fact is that the Nhulunbuy store which sells prepaid power cards failed to order an adequate amount.

“Unfortunately, the store ran out of the prepaid power cards and the locals went without.

“PWC did everything they could to get more prepaid power cards to Nhulunbuy as soon as possible.

“This is not a Government blunder just a desperate politician trying to capitalise on the misfortune of others.

“Ms. Walker should stop wasting everybody’s time and like the Government, focus efforts on getting gas to Gove.”

The prepaid power cards arrived in Nhulunbuy yesterday and were available for sale at 8.00am this morning.

The local store has advised that they will increase stock levels of prepaid power cards to prevent this from happening again.

There are 140 prepaid power card retailers in the Northern Territory.

Media Contact:

Jack Cranwell 0428 574 943

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