Electricity prices will fall by about $155 for the average Territory family in 2016 as a result of structural and regulatory reforms undertaken by the Country Liberals Government.

Chief Minister Adam Giles said the Government’s restructuring of the Power and Water Corporation meant electricity tariffs would be reduced by five per cent from 1 January 2016 and a CPI increase of up to 2.5 per cent had also been ruled out.

“Since coming to Government, the Country Liberals have worked hard to lower the cost of living for Territorians,” he said.

“Following our Fuel Price Summit, petrol prices have gone from being among the highest in the country to among the lowest, while housing costs have also eased on the back of the Country Liberals Government’s record land release program.

“I’m pleased to announce today that our electricity sector reforms are also now set to deliver good outcomes for Territorians with a five per cent reduction in electricity prices.

“That equates to an estimated annual price reduction for an average Territory family consuming 12,000KWh per year of about $155 and for an average small business consuming 34,000 KWh per year the reduction would be about $200.

“If your quarterly bill is about $1000, it means you will be saving about $200 a year.

“We’ve been able to achieve these lower prices through the structural separation of the Power and Water Corporation and driving efficiencies.

“Retail competition for residential customers will also be introduced that will give households greater choice of their electricity supplier and greater ability to access new and innovative products, like smart meters.

“The construction of the North East Gas Interconnector (NEGI) Pipeline together with new competitors in the electricity generation sector also signals further price reductions into the future.

“These reforms we’ve introduced have improved financial transparency and delivered clear pricing for each component of the electricity supply chain at a regional and customer level.”
Mr Giles said the reform program was already delivering ongoing improvements and provides strong incentives to achieve efficiencies in supplying electricity in the Territory.

“These lower electricity prices would not be possible without the new industry structure and ongoing regulatory reforms. We are delivering, and will continue to deliver improved management of costs in all parts of the Territory electricity supply chain,” he said.

“It’s all part of the Country Liberals Government’s plan to deliver more jobs, better services and improve our unique way of life in the Territory.”

**Media Contact: Jon Taylor 0417 710 687**