The Northern Territory Government has announced a further boost to Territory power supply and will invest $26 million to upgrade the Tennant Creek Power Station.

Chief Minister Adam Giles said the Tennant Creek Power Station is made up of 20 to 40 year old units that don’t match the requirements of the Tennant Creek load.

“This upgrade to the Tennant Creek Power Station is an important investment that will increase the reliability and efficiency of power supply and help reduce electricity prices,” he said.

“It will also see a reduction in emissions, increased reliability and create employment in the region with 27 direct jobs expected to come during the construction phase.”

Treasurer David Tollner said the upgrades will give Barkly residents increased confidence in their power supply and create high efficiency power plants with improved environmental outcomes.

“Once the upgrade is complete we will see a significant reduction in maintenance and operating costs and wholesale electricity price, the benefit of which will be passed back to the electricity customers through lower retail electricity tariffs,” he said.

A nine month tender process for upgrading the Tennant Creek Power Station has already been undertaken and Territory Generation selected Clarke Energy as the preferred contractor.

The upgrade of Tennant Creek Power Station will involve the implementation of a three 2 megawatt gas fired spark ignition reciprocating engine and a 1.5 MW diesel fired reciprocating engine power station to be located adjacent to the existing plant.

Upgrade works are due to commence this month with the new capacity expected to be commissioned in July 2017.

The Country Liberals Government also recently announced a $75 million investment in Owen Springs Power Station in Alice Springs.
“These investments in Central Australian power supplies fall in line with other electricity reform programs implemented by the Country Liberals Government to deliver efficiencies in supplying electricity in the Territory,” Mr Giles said.

“We are delivering, and will continue to deliver improved management of costs in all parts of the Territory electricity supply chain.

“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.”

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