Giving Real Energy to the Territory –
Connecting to the National Electricity Grid

The Country Liberal Party will connect the Territory to the National Electricity Grid to drive down the cost of electricity for all Territorians.

This will be done with the construction of a privately funded Direct Current power line arcing across the continent from the east coast via Mt Isa.

It is expected that the construction costs could be in the order of $1.3 billion.

It will be the one of the biggest Territory building projects since the CLP built the Alice Springs-Darwin rail link.

The Country Liberal Party has been in discussion with a consortium for several months to assist in bringing this project to the Territory.

Connecting to the National Grid will drive down the cost of electricity for the Territory – according to the proponents of the scheme, this reduction will be very significant and will be in excess of 30% and deliver a competitive energy market for the Territory.

Territorians have been second class citizens compared to the rest of Australia when it comes to electricity.

Average power bills in the Territory dwarf those of people in other States, with most Australians averaging a tariff of 10 cents/kWh compared to a Territory rate of 14 cents/kWh.

The project will benefit every Territorian. As prices fall subsidies for those outside the grid will increase to get matching reductions.
With the Territory’s hot and humid climate cheaper electricity will dramatically improve our lifestyle.

To kick start the project the CLP will invest an initial $5 million and establish the Office of Electricity Development.

- The OED will have an independent Chairman and report directly to the Chief Minister.

- The OED will draw together under one banner the expertise from the private and public sector to ensure the project operates smoothly and efficiently.

- It will also be responsible for expediting all environmental, planning, land rights and engineering issues. In effect it would be a one stop “Power Shop”.

- Concurrent with this the OED will conduct a feasibility study as the first step in kick starting the project.

- Further the OED will work to ensure that the project receives Major Project Status with the Federal Government.

Infrastructure is the word on everyone’s lips. This Territory building project is putting paid to the lip service of Clare Martin and Labor Party when it comes to infrastructure.

The privately funded power line will guarantee a reliable source of energy for decades to come.

This will ease the cost burden of small and medium sized businesses and open up the Territory to prospective businesses that need a constant, reliable and affordable source of power.

Further, it will open up our mineral provinces and in doing so provide indigenous Australians with the opportunity to develop their full economic potential.

Only the Country Liberal Party have the vision, the will, the drive and the energy to start and complete an infrastructure project of this magnitude. We have done it before and we can do it again.