Underground power in Nightcliff and Rapid Creek

The project to underground power in Nightcliff and Rapid Creek has reached a new milestone, with seven power poles along Dick Ward Drive having been removed.

Essential Services Minister Dr Chris Burns said one part of the project involves undergrounding a section of overhead power supply along Dick Ward Drive from Progress Drive to Woolworths Nightcliff.

"With the new high voltage feeder in place, this means Woolworths Shopping Centre will have a more secure and reliable source of supply," Dr Burns said.

"That's good news for tenants at the shopping centre and their customers – and that section of Dick Ward Drive will certainly look much more attractive once the power poles have been removed."

Dr Burns said today's milestone illustrates of the aims of the undergrounding project: improving reliability by putting power supply out of harm's way and enhancing the appearance of our streets.

"Areas supplied by underground power traditionally have up to a quarter of the number of interruptions of areas serviced by overhead powerlines," Dr Burns said.

The Undergrounding Power Project is an $80 million, 20-year project that will ultimately result in almost 9,000 lots and 16,000 customers in suburban Darwin having their overhead powerlines replaced with reliable and safe underground lines.

The project is jointly funded by the Northern Territory Government at $3 million a year with Power and Water Corporation contributing $1 million per year.

The first suburbs to have their power put underground as part of the project are Nightcliff and Rapid Creek. Reliability of power supply in Nightcliff and Rapid Creek has long been at risk of frequent interruption, because of long line lengths and the large number of trees.

The work is being carried out by local contractors.

Residents are encouraged to contact the project office at Shop 2B, 40 Progress Drive, Nightcliff to find out when their area will be undergrounded.

People can also find out more through Freecall 1800 000 761 or by visiting www.powerwater.com.au.