Essential Services Minister Rob Knight today released the Preliminary Report from the Independent Inquiry into the failures at the Casuarina Zone Substation.

“I ordered the external inquiry to determine the root causes of the failures, and I assure Territorians no stone will be left unturned to fix these problems,” Mr Knight said.

“It is about using fresh ideas to deal with these problems so we can deliver real results to Territorians.

“The investigation is being led by Mervyn Davies, one of Australia’s leading industry experts, and covers the Casuarina Zone Substation and the adequacy of our network maintenance program in general.

The Preliminary Report addresses technical root causes of events, and provides these recommendations:

· A rigorous condition assessment of all Zone Substation Distribution Switchboards
· Frame leakage protection systems should be verified and remediated if necessary
· Immediate action to replace the Casuarina Zone Substation 11kV switchboard

“Two of these recommendations are well on the way to being implemented.

“Power and Water is currently assessing Zone Substation Distribution Switchboards and a new switchboard for Casuarina is expected to arrive in December.

“I’ve ordered Power and Water to immediately address the frame leakage protection systems.
“I would like to commend the recovery team and workforce for their efforts on each occasion, the decisions they made were appropriate in the circumstances.

“While there were a number of factors which contributed to the failures, the type and extent of maintenance regimes has been a reoccurring issue, which is of great concern.

“What needs to be done will be done by this Government to provide the best possible power system for Territorians. Mr Davies will now work on a Draft and Final Report,” Mr Knight said.

**Media Contact: Katie Woolf 0420 972 505**