Improving Essential Services in Remote Central Australian Communities

The Territory Government will invest $67 million in Budget 2009 to improve power, water and sewerage services in remote Indigenous communities, including $18.9 million for infrastructure.

Minister for Essential Services Rob Knight said the $18.9 million for the Indigenous Essential Services Program included a boost of $3.95 million and would see more than $2.8 invested in Central Australia.

“The Territory Government is committed to closing the gap on Indigenous disadvantage, including improving essential services in the bush,” Mr Knight said.

“The Government knows the demand for power and water will continue to grow as the population in remote areas increases and more homes, schools and health centres are built and upgraded.

“This funding will deliver new infrastructure for electricity, water and sewerage services, as well as allowing necessary repairs and maintenance to take place.”

The Indigenous Essential Services program for Central Australia in Budget 09 will include:

- $2.4 million for a new grid connection to Yuendumu power station to replace Yuelamu power station
- $420 000 to replace the ground level storage tank in Wilora;

More than $9.3 million will also be invested Territory wide in minor works programs.
This is in addition to $2.5 million provided in 2008-09 for projects such as new chlorine disinfection and UV disinfection for the water supply in 17 communities.

“This work is about growing the Territory’s services, investing in our regions and delivering real results for Territorians,” said Mr Knight.

“Budget 2009 is focused on building the Territory and protecting Territory jobs.”

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

_Fresh Ideas, Real Results_