Boosting Capacity from Darwin to Katherine

The Minister for Essential Services, Rob Knight, today inspected the Weddell Power Station during the installation of the third turbine, representing phase three of the project.

“This is part of a Territory-wide generation investment strategy to meet the electricity demand from our growing domestic and business base while following a schedule of maintenance, repair and refurbishment on all equipment,” said Mr. Knight.

“We recognise the Territory is heading in the right direction, so improving, upgrading and investing in our essential services has been a priority of this Government.

“Once complete, the third turbine will significantly increase the potential capacity for Darwin and Palmerston’s power supply to a total of 440 megawatts.

“These highly efficient machines operate solely on natural gas, ensuring that Weddell emits less greenhouse gases than other comparable power stations.

“Overall, with the addition of this third unit, the Weddell Power Station will contribute 25 per cent to the capacity of the Darwin-Katherine transmission system.

“The third turbine makes Weddell a $124 million project, and to date; more than 40 Territory companies have contributed.

General Electric has supplied the third 43 megawatt generator for the Weddell Power Station. The Third set is a LM 6000 PD generation set.

“The Territory has some of the most extreme weather conditions in the country, and delivering power is a challenge that this government is meeting head on, with record spending in essential services, and working closely with Power and Water,” Mr. Knight added.

The third unit has an expected completion date of mid 2012.