GOVERNMENT RELEASES REPORT INTO DARWIN BLACKOUT

14 March 2014

The Northern Territory Government today released a report from Power and Water Corporation (PWC) into Wednesday’s power outage in Darwin and Katherine.

The report outlines the cause of the blackout and details PWC’s response and management of the incident. The Government received the report yesterday following a request to PWC by the Chief Minister Adam Giles for an urgent report into the event.

The report identifies the cause of the blackout as a circuit breaker malfunction at Hudson Creek Terminal Station at 1:19am.

A number of system protection measures were then triggered to protect the system from catastrophic failure, including shutting down all generation at Channel Island Power Station.

The report also outlines the complexity of restoring gas supply and generation capacity.

Treasurer Dave Tollner said the report provides the government with useful information but more detailed investigations will continue.

“I have directed the Northern Territory Utilities Commission to undertake a separate review. I understand they will engage a major international firm, which has particular expertise in electricity generation and supply, to assist with this investigation,” Mr Tollner said.

“I understand the Utilities Commission will also draw on the expertise of the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO), which is the national energy market body,” he said.

Mr Tollner said the Government reserves the right to undertake additional investigations should that be warranted.

“I await with interest the detailed report from the NT’s independent Utilities Commission. Territorians can rest assured that if further investigation of Wednesday’s event is required then the government won’t be afraid to act,” Mr Tollner said.


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