05 February 2004
Undergrounding power in Nightcliff and Rapid Creek

Darwin’s electricity supply is about to get a major reliability boost, with the commencement of the Undergrounding Power Project in Nightcliff at the beginning of the Dry Season.

The reliability of power supply in Nightcliff and Rapid Creek at risk of frequent interruption, due to long line lengths and the high numbers of trees in these areas, and will be among the first suburbs to receive underground power lines.

The $80 million, 20-year project will 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 Undergrounding Power Project is jointly funded by the Northern Territory Government at $3 million per year with Power and Water Corporation contributing $1 million per year.

Power and Water recently awarded a tender to Nilsen Electric (NT) Pty Ltd as the Managing Contractor for the first three years of the Undergrounding Power Project.

Nilsen, who formed a joint venture with Savant Pty Ltd and Townes Chappell Mudgway (to be known as NST), will be responsible for the planning and detailed design work through to construction which will be carried out by sub contractors. NST in their capacity as the Managing Contractor will be responsible for project management of all subcontract works.

NST have significant experience in the areas of electrical design, project management and construction, and were the contractors for the Bougainvillea Street pilot project in 1997/98.

Dr Burns said that areas supplied by underground power traditionally have up to half the number of interruptions of areas serviced by overhead powerlines.

NST are experienced local companies who will be utilising local Territory resources. The project will provide significant employment and work opportunities for local businesses and Territorians.

Detailed design work has commenced to underground the first section of work in the residential streets of Nightcliff. It is proposed to have all of Nightcliff with underground power by December 2005.

The Undergrounding Power Project will not only provide improved power reliability for residents in Darwin’s older suburbs, but will also provide greater security of supply in the event of a cyclone and improved community safety.
Residents are encouraged to contact the project office to find out when their area will be undergrounded:

Project Office – Shop 2B, 40 Progress Drive, Nightcliff

Freecall 1800 000 761

www.powerwater.com.au