DOWN THEY COME … FIRST POWER POLES REMOVED

The first power pole has been removed from a residential street as part of the Government’s Undergrounding Power Project.

Chief Minister, Clare Martin, joined Essential Services Minister, Dr Chris Burns, and local MLA, Jane Aagaard, in Nightcliff’s Pandanus Street to watch local contractors cut down the first pole.

“This is a great day for local residents – they will now have a better supply for power,” Ms Martin said.

“Their electricity is now supplied by safer and more reliable underground cables, and the ugly overhead lines and power poles are being removed.

“I’m proud to be delivering on our election promise – it’s a milestone in the undergrounding of power for Darwin and it will be an important addition to our great Territory lifestyle.”

Ms Martin said that areas supplied by underground power have about a quarter of the number of interruptions of areas serviced by overhead powerlines.

Residents also benefit from improved community safety and security of supply in the event of a cyclone.

The Undergrounding Power Project is an $80 million, 20-year project that will ultimately 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 project is jointly funded by the Territory Government and Power and Water Corporation, with the work being carried out by local contractors.

The first suburbs to have their power put underground as part of the project are Nightcliff and Rapid Creek. Reliability of power supply in Nightcliff and Rapid Creek has long been at risk of frequent interruption, because of long line lengths and the large number of trees overhanging the power lines.

Work has commenced to underground power lines to 329 homes in Nightcliff and Rapid Creek. This includes 4,439 metres of high voltage cable, 10,000 metres of low voltage cable, seven new substations, 104 pillars, 137 streetlights and 7,800 metres of new footpaths.

Residents are encouraged to contact the project office at Shop 2B, 40 Progress Drive, Nightcliff, to find out when their area will be undergrounded.

People can also find out more through Freecall 1800 000 761 or by visiting www.powerwater.com.au

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