

# IMPROVING POWER SUPPLY IN REMOTE COMMUNITIES

The Aboriginal and Remote Communities Power Supply Project (ARCPSPP) aims to improve the quality, safety, reliability and affordability of power supplies in remote Aboriginal communities. Recognising the impact essential services have on living standards and development opportunities in remote areas, Horizon Power is working to improve power services in remote communities to the same standard as provided to other regional towns.

The Aboriginal and Remote Communities Power Supply Project (ARCPSPP) is funded by the State Government through the Office of Energy and the Commonwealth Department of Family, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

Having successfully completed the upgrade of power supplies in six remote Aboriginal communities in December 2007, Horizon Power is set to begin work in ten more communities (with populations greater than 200 people) for the second phase of the project. The first of these communities are Kalumburu and Yungngora (Noonkanbah).

Based on effective engagement and consultation with the communities, Horizon Power ensures the energy solutions we develop have lasting value that goes beyond the supply of reliable electricity. Horizon Power selects, develops and deploys power generation, network, metering and retail systems that are sustainable in terms of the communities' needs, service conditions, operating costs and environmental impact.





### Using renewable energy in remote Aboriginal communities

Horizon Power strives to provide cost-effective and sustainable energy solutions that are focused on the long-term needs of communities.

Horizon Power will actively consider incorporating renewable energy generating technologies into communities' electricity systems.

Horizon Power is also working with Government agencies to implement energy efficiency initiatives in the communities, including installing insulation in houses.

### Building local skills

The isolation and size of some remote communities serviced by Horizon Power presents challenges in regard to maintenance and responding to supply issues.

To help ensure the continuity of electricity supply and to avoid delays in waiting for a technician to drive or fly long distances, Horizon Power has developed an innovative training program that equips local people with the skills to maintain the local power supply.

Where the requirement is identified, local people in some remote communities are trained as Essential Services Officers. They receive training at a special Horizon Power training facility in Broome. Essential Services Officers also have the opportunity to expand their training to become fully qualified linesmen.

Developed to support the ARCPSP, the training program commenced in July 2008. The ARCPSP and the Essential Services Officers Program won the Australian Business Award for Community Contribution in May 2009.

### Working with communities

Horizon Power works closely with the communities to deliver redeveloped electricity systems that meet their needs and to ensure Horizon Power's activities are in accordance with the communities' expectations.

While the works are taking place, Horizon Power Education Officers visit each community to explain the new electricity system, how it works, how to use pre-payment meters and budget for electricity costs. Information is also collected from each household to determine eligibility for electricity concessions.

### Sensitive to culture and the environment

Horizon Power ensures that access permissions and cultural sensitivities are appropriately managed. We ensure that we comply with Aboriginal Heritage and Native Title processes and all relevant environmental and water protection regulations.



### Keeping communities informed

Horizon Power will keep the local community and other stakeholders informed about this project via community briefings and project newsletters.

If you would like further information about the Aboriginal and Remote Communities Power Supply Project please contact:

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### About Horizon Power

Horizon Power is an electricity generator, network operator and retailer that is sharply focussed and dedicated to servicing the needs of customers in regional Western Australia; from remote and isolated communities to some of the biggest resource companies in Australia.

Horizon Power services an area of 2.3 million square kilometres and continually works towards being a valued member of Western Australian communities. We believe in the importance of community and building social and environmental value in each community we work in. For more information on Horizon Power, visit [www.horizonpower.com.au](http://www.horizonpower.com.au)

**“While sound planning, engineering and construction were significant components of the success of this program (ARCPSP), the major factor of its success was the open and trusting engagement with Traditional Owners and community leaders. This created a positive environment in which relationships could be forged, mistakes could be forgiven and success could be shared.”**

Brendan Hammond  
Chairman

**“Please pass on my thanks to the Horizon Power staff for all their assistance throughout the electricity changeover. Everyone has been friendly and has helped make the transition as painless as possible. Sacred Heart School appreciate the extra support and assistance all your staff has shown.”**

John Rose  
Principal Sacred Heart School  
Beagle Bay

**“The new (power station) system’s out of town, the quality of power’s very stable, so all-in—all the quality of power that we’re getting is better.”**

Andrew McGaw  
CEO Djarindjin Aboriginal Corporation