

Town Reserves Regularisation Project

Horizon Power and the Department of Housing and Works are currently working on a joint project that aims to regularise the power supply arrangements in Indigenous Town Reserve communities in the Kimberley region. Under the project, Horizon Power will upgrade the existing distribution network in the communities and establish a direct retail arrangement with customers.

Work to complete Phase One of the Town Reserves Regularisation Project (TRRP) is almost complete, with Guda Guda, Warrayu and Nillir Irbanjin the last communities to receive underground power under Phase One of the project. Discussions with government agencies are underway for the second phase following on from our successes in Phase One.

East Kimberley region network upgrades

Project contractor, *Complete Underground Power Installations*, is currently installing underground power in Guda Guda, Wyndham, and will then complete Warrayu, Wyndham with both communities being energised in mid July. Horizon Power's pre-payment metering service "Ready Power" has successfully been in place in Guda Guda and Warrayu since November 2005.

The Chairperson of Guda Guda community, Janet Gallagher, the Chairperson of Warrayu Community, Jean Layland and Ross



From left to right Darryl Smith (Horizon Power), Garry Hines (Horizon Power Contractor), Gavin Hoath (DHW) and Adrian King (DHW contracted Electrician) at the Guda Guda pre-start meeting.

Campbell from Joorook Ngarni Aboriginal Corporation joined Horizon Power with representatives from the Department of Housing and Works (DHW) on Wednesday 6 June to review the planned works for each stage in each community.



Warrayu Community, Wyndham before works began in June 2007.

West Kimberley region network upgrades

The Budulah and Djimund-Nguda communities in Derby were successfully regularised on 26 April 2007 followed by Burununga and Karmulinga communities on 25 May 2007. All four communities now have an underground power network, individual metering at uniform tariffs and, except for Burununga, *Ready Power*. The completion date was delayed for two weeks due to wet season rain.



Guda Guda Community, Wyndham before works began in June 2007.





Budaluh Community, Derby before works began in May 2007.

Nillir Irbanjin

Works have been halted out of concern about disruption to a sensitive area adjacent to the community. Negotiations with relevant agencies and Traditional Owners are underway.



Nillir Irbanjin Community before works began in February 2007.

TRRP Phase Two

Discussions are underway between DHW and the Department of Families, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs to confirm funding for the regularisation of more town based Aboriginal communities, fulfilling the Commonwealth and State Government's commitments to Indigenous Communities.

Customer feedback about Ready Power

Horizon Power conducted a survey of TRRP customers that have been using *Ready Power* for 12 months to obtain an accurate understanding of customers' experience using the pre-payment meter system. The feedback will be used to refine our processes for the future deployment of meters and associated services.

The purpose of the Prepayment Meter Survey was to ascertain the usability and performance of prepayment electricity meters by the residents within the TRRP. Communities that were surveyed were:

- Mirima;
- Nulleywah;

- Nicholson Camp;
- Yardgee; and
- Red Hill.

Results showed 98% percent of residents have embraced prepayment meters and prefer them to previous 'Chuck-In' or 'Credit' payment systems. Reasons given by residents vary from:

- Ability to save money by reducing and understanding power consumption;
- Easier than paying a bi-monthly bill; and
- User friendliness of the system.

Generally Horizon Power has been pleased with the performance of the prepayment meter system. Education sessions were well received and understood, providing residents with sufficient information on power usage of their household appliances and safety requirements.

All residents agreed that the location of the power card distribution centres is convenient to them and the variety of cards is sufficient for household budgeting.

The emergency credit component is widely understood and 81% of residents surveyed use emergency credit, allowing additional flexibility in power cost management.

Timetable

Community	Network Upgrade
Guda Guda & Warrayu, Wyndham	2nd quarter 2007
Nillir Irbanjin, Broome	4th quarter 2007

Contacts

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of this project, please contact either:

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