

What we do

Who we are

Power and Water Corporation provides electricity, water supply and sewerage services to more than 80 000 customers across the Northern Territory's 1.3 million square kilometres.

Employing more than 1 000 Territorians with assets of more than \$2 billion, Power and Water is one of the largest businesses in the Territory.

What we do

Electricity

We generate electricity using gas, diesel, solar and combined technologies. This includes the latest technology such as the 44MW LM6000PD gas turbine generators at Weddell Power Station and the three 10.9 megawatt engines at Owen Springs Power Station. When complete, the Owen Springs Power Station will be Australia's most efficient open-cycle power supply.

We also manage energy-efficient innovations such as combined diesel-solar generation in six remote communities.

Katherine has a stand-alone power station and is also linked to Channel Island (near Darwin) by 300 kilometres of 132 000 volt transmission line. The Darwin-Katherine system connects the Channel Island, Weddell, Berrimah, Katherine and the privately-owned Pine Creek power stations.

Power and Water owns eight minor power stations in smaller townships at Borroloola, Daly Waters, Elliott, Kings Canyon, Timber Creek, Ti Tree and Yulara. We also operate 68 remote community power stations.

The electricity network connects domestic and commercial customers to both private and Power and Water generators. The network system has a number of separate major regions – Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Darwin, Katherine, Jabiru and Yulara - and consists of a 132kV and 66kV transmission network, 41 500 poles and towers, 5 700 kilometres of overhead line and 2 420 kilometres of underground cable.

The environmental challenges we face in maintaining the networks include cyclones, storms and damage from trees and wildlife.

Water and Sewerage

We provide water supply and sewerage services to five major and 13 minor centres.

Most communities rely on groundwater, but Darwin and Katherine use a combination of groundwater and surface water supplies. Major water sources are the Darwin River Dam in the Top End and the Roe Creek borefields in Central Australia. Limited water treatment is required and in most cases supplies are only disinfected prior to use, except in Yulara where a desalination plant is operated. In Yulara and Alice Springs, non-potable groundwater supplies are reticulated for irrigation use.

Remote Operations

We support the provision of electricity, water and sewerage services in remote Territory communities through our wholly-owned, not-for-profit, subsidiary Indigenous Essential Services Pty Ltd (IES). Services are provided under a "fee-for-service" agreement with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

Electricity and water is supplied to 72 indigenous communities and sewerage services to 57 of these. These communities are in isolated locations, both in tropical and arid environments, requiring careful planning of all works as well as active resource conservation initiatives. These initiatives include solar-powered water pumps, small and efficient diesel power stations with combined solar technology and engagement in water planning.

There are 250 production bores, 160 water storage tanks and 600 kilometres of reticulation spread across communities and outstations (80 in total). In most locations, the water is chlorinated as a precaution against contamination. Ultraviolet systems are also used if appropriate.

The day-to-day operation of community facilities is managed by Remote Operations staff members assisted by Essential Services Operators based in the community and specialist contractors.

Our business

Power and Water Corporation became the Northern Territory's first Government owned Corporation on 1 July 2002. This means we are mandated to operate at least as efficiently as any comparable business and to maximise the sustainable return to the Northern Territory on its investment.

Power and Water operates within the following framework:

- 100 per cent owned by the Northern Territory Government;
- Price and conduct relation by the Utilities Commission;
- Licensed in the Northern Territory electricity market as a generator, network provider, system controller and retailer;
- Licensed to provide water supply and sewerage services;
- Subject to all laws affecting commercial businesses;
- Subject to competition in the Northern Territory electricity market.

Environmental Performance

Power and Water uses natural gas in all of its major power stations, limiting greenhouse emissions that would come from coal-fired burners. In the minor centres, Power and Water is continuing to focus on renewable energy such as solar panels and trialling alternatives to diesel such as bio-diesel.

Triple certification

Power and Water became the first company Northern Territory, and the first utility company in Australia, to simultaneously gain certification in the three recognised international and Australian standards for Occupational Health and Safety, Environmental Management Systems and Quality Management Systems.