

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Lambley to the Treasurer and Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services:

Theft of Property and Equipment from the Power and Water Corporation

1. What is your knowledge of the theft of equipment and property owned by the Power and Water Corporation since August 2016?
2. Have you reported any allegations of theft of Power and Water Corporation equipment to the police since you have been Treasurer?
3. Are you aware of any reports to the police of theft of Power and Water Corporation equipment since you have been Treasurer and Shareholding Minister?
4. How much equipment has been stolen from the Power and Water Corporation since August 2016?
5. What is the total value of equipment and property stolen from the Power and Water Corporation since August 2016?
6. Has an audit been done by the Power and Water Corporation to ascertain exactly what has been stolen and the value of items stolen from the Power and Water Corporation since August 2016? If so, is this audit publicly available?
7. Has anyone lost their job or been suspended from their job, pending a criminal investigation into allegations of theft from the Power and Water Corporation since August 2016?
8. Have the Board of the Power and Water Corporation or you as the Shareholding Minister of the Power and Water Corporation, made any public statements or provided public advice on allegations and / or investigations by the police into theft and / or corruption in the Power and Water Corporation?
9. Have you been advised of allegations of theft and corruption in the Power and Water Corporation? If so, please provide details.
10. Has the Chief Minister and Cabinet been advised of alleged crimes of theft and corruption within the Power and Water Corporation?

11. What is the Power and Water Corporation Board's position and process for dealing with allegations of theft and corruption within the Power and Water Corporation?
12. Is the Power and Water Corporation Board currently working with the police to address theft and possible corruption within the Corporation?
13. Have allegations of theft and corruption been covered up by the Government or the Power and Water Corporation Board?
14. How much has theft cost the Power and Water Corporation since August 2016?
15. How many allegations of theft in the Power and Water Corporation have been investigated by the police since August 2016?
16. How many cases of theft in the Power and Water Corporation have been prosecuted since August 2016?
17. Has anyone been sacked from the Power and Water Corporation for stealing or assisting in stealing from the Power and Water Corporation since August 2016? If so, please provide details.
18. What measures are in place within the Power and Water Corporation to ensure property and equipment are accounted for and secure?
19. Is theft a problem within the NT Power and Water Corporation?
20. What has been stolen from the Power and Water Corporation since August 2016? Please provide details of:
 - the piece of property or equipment stolen
 - exactly where it was stolen from
 - the value of the property or equipment stolen
 - whether or not the matter was reported to the police
 - details of the police and / or internal investigation undertaken
 - details of the outcome of the police and / or internal investigation.

ANSWERS:

1. What is your knowledge of the theft of equipment and property owned by the Power and Water Corporation since August 2016?

To date the most significant issues regarding theft I have been made aware of are those you referred to in your correspondence to me on 27 June. As I said in my response of 10 July, I received the same anonymous letter alleging serious, systemic theft and corruption within the NT Power and Water Corporation. As I said in my letter, Police have commenced inquiries in consultation with the NT Independent Commissioner Against Corruption. It is my expectation all significant criminal behaviour relating to Power and Water will be reported to me as the shareholding Minister.

2. Have you reported any allegations of theft of Power and Water Corporation equipment to the police since you have been Treasurer?

My office provided Police details about the matter you have referred to.

3. Are you aware of any reports to the police of theft of Power and Water Corporation equipment since you have been Treasurer and Shareholding Minister?

See answers to questions one.

4. How much equipment has been stolen from the Power and Water Corporation since August 2016?

5. What is the total value of equipment and property stolen from the Power and Water Corporation since August 2016?

Please note, the below answers are for Questions 4 and 5.

Police estimate the total value of equipment stolen is \$180,000

Police estimate the total value of copper stolen is \$100,000.

6. Has an audit been done by the Power and Water Corporation to ascertain exactly what has been stolen and the value of items stolen from the Power and Water Corporation since August 2016? If so, is this audit publicly available?

No audit of Power and Water property has been carried out to ascertain the quantity and the value of items stolen from Power and Water since August 2016. But Power and Water registers all security events and where a theft is confirmed to have occurred, a report is made to the NT Police. Power and Water is currently reviewing its procedures around the reporting and investigations of these events to identify areas for further improvement.

7. Has anyone lost their job or been suspended from their job, pending a criminal investigation into allegations of theft from the Power and Water Corporation since August 2016?

No one has lost their job or been suspended from their job, pending a criminal investigation into allegations of theft from the Power and Water Corporation since August 2016.

8. Have the Board of Power and Water Corporation or you as the Shareholding Minister of the Power and Water Corporation, made any public statements or provided public advice on allegations and / or investigations by the police into the theft and / or corruption in the Power and Water Corporation?

As this matter is under Police investigation in consultation with the NT Independent Commissioner Against Corruption, any public comment would be inappropriate.

9. Have you been advised of allegations of theft and corruption in the Power and Water Corporation? If so, please provide details.

See answer one.

10. Has the Chief Minister and Cabinet been advised of alleged crimes of theft and corruption within the Power and Water Corporation?

Yes.

11. What is the Power and Water Corporation Board's position and process for dealing with allegations of theft and corruption within the Power and Water Corporation?

Power and Water's Board takes all matters of unlawful practice and conduct seriously. Its Code of Conduct together with Unacceptable Conduct Management Standard form the framework for managing unacceptable conduct and upholding the expected level of integrity for Power and Water. The Standard extensively sets out the process for the investigation of all potential unacceptable conduct within Power and Water, including theft and corruption, and has been endorsed by the Audit and Risk Management Committee and approved by the Executive Leadership Team.

12. Is the Power and Water Corporation Board currently working with the police to address theft and possible corruption within the Corporation?

In regards to the copper theft reported in the media, Power and Water's Security Specialist is working and cooperating with NT Police on theft activity at Ben Hammond and several other Power and Water facilities in the Darwin metro area. Details of this engagement cannot be disclosed for confidentiality and operational security purposes, and to maintain integrity in the investigations.

13. Have allegations of theft and corruption been covered up by the Government or the Power and Water Corporation Board?

No.

14. How much has theft cost the Power and Water Corporation since August 2016?

See answers four and five.

15. How many allegations of theft in the Power and Water Corporation have been investigated by the police since August 2016?

Total theft reports to Police – 30.

16. How many cases of theft in the Power and Water Corporation have been prosecuted since August 2016?

Total thefts prosecuted by Police – 3.

17. Has anyone been sacked from the Power and Water Corporation for stealing or assisting in stealing from the Power and Water Corporation since August 2016? If so, please provide details.

See answer seven.

18. What measures are in place within the Power and Water Corporation to ensure property and equipment are accounted for and secure?

As per Answer 6, Power and Water registers all security events and where a theft is confirmed to have occurred, a report is made to the NT Police. Power and Water is currently reviewing its procedures around the reporting and investigations of these events to identify areas for further improvement.

19. Is theft a problem within the Power and Water Corporation?

Any theft is unacceptable. Any reported thefts are investigated and I expect every effort is made to reduce further thefts occurring.

20. What has been stolen from the Power and Water Corporation since August 2016? Please provide details of:

- the piece of property or equipment stolen
- exactly where it was stolen from
- the value of the property or equipment stolen
- whether or not the matter was reported to the police
- details of the police and / or internal investigation undertaken
- details of the outcome of the police and / or internal investigation.

Box trailer stolen from 17 Flemming Street, The Narrows between 1 December 2016 to 15 December 2016. Value stolen \$10,000-00.

Matter was finalised on 16 January 2017 with no further investigation. Vehicle remains outstanding.

Sometime between 15 February 2017 and 17 February 2017 the fence to 1030 Stuart Highway, Bees Creek cut and approx. 100kg of 30mm circular copper pipe stolen. Value stolen \$3,000. Reported to Police on the 17 February 2017.

Matter was finalised on 18 February 2017 stating nil witnesses, nil suspects, nil closed-circuit television (CCTV) and nil forensic evidence.

Sometime between 27 April 2017 and 4 May 2017 unknown person has stolen \$3,500 of copper wire from drum spools at 550 Stuart Highway, Freds Pass. Reported to Police 4 May 2017.

Matter was finalised on 22 May 2017, as no further information received to identify offender.

1 drum of 200m of copper wire valued at \$1,400 was stolen from trailer in compound at 550 Stuart Highway, Freds Pass. Occurred between 20 May 2017 and 22 May 2017. Reported to Police on 22 May 2017.

Matter was finalised on 29 May 2017 stating nil witnesses, nil suspects, nil

Unlawful entry into containers at Sewer Ponds located in Angurugu. Spray paint/grinder was stolen valued at \$300. Occurred overnight from 4 June 2017 to 5 June 2017. Reported to Police on 5 June 2017. Nil persons of interest identified.

Matter was finalised on 22 August 2017.

Police identified a suspect vehicle and upon searching located off cuts of copper wire. Investigations led to identifying copper was stolen from Palmerston Zone substation located at 48 Georgina Crescent, Yarrowonga in the early hours of 21 July 2017.

Offenders were arrested and prosecuted.

Copper wire to the value of \$3,400 was stolen from depot at 550 Stuart Highway, Freds Pass between 28 July 2017 to 31 July 2017. Fence had been cut to gain access. Reported to Police on 31 July 2017.

Matter was finalised on 4 August 2017 due to insufficient evidence to identify offender.

Copper wire to the value of \$3,300 was stolen from depot at 550 Stuart Highway, Freds Pass between 14 August 2017 to 15 August 2017. Reported to Police on 15 August 2017. Forensic samples taken however nil DNA was obtained to identify offender.

Matter was finalised on 14 September 2017 due to insufficient evidence to identify offender.

Ten Cooper earth rods stolen from power poles at Woodlands Road, Thomas Road, Goode Road and Trippe Road, Humpty Doo. No value provided to Police. Occurred between 1 September 2017 to 11 October 2017. Reported to Police on 11 October 2017.

Matter was finalised on 11 October 2017 due to nil evidence to identify offender.

Two reels of copper wire valued at \$1,000 was stolen from 48 Georgina Crescent, Yarrowonga between 11 November 2017 to 13 November 2017. Reported to Police on 13 November 2017.

Matter was finalised on 14 November 2017 due to nil evidence to identify

Generator leads (containing copper wire) valued between \$5,000 to \$10,000 was stolen from 'VISY' 30 Lilwall Road, East Arm between 1 December 2017 to 4 December 2017 CCTV obtained however, quality of footage was grainy. Police identified possible suspect however, nil further evidence to enable successful prosecution.

Matter was finalised on 17 January 2018.

Generating transformer valued at \$10,000 was stolen from 16 Armidale Street, Stuart Park during the night of 18 January 2018. Recovered 50m down the road. Police attended scene. Nil further action.

Matter was finalised on 19 January 2018.

Paper lead cables and generator cables valued at \$4,000 was stolen from Power Water Training Centre, Stuart Highway, Coolalinga overnight on 8 April 2018. Reported to Police on 9 April 2018.

Matter finalised 20 April 2018 unless further information comes to hand.

Police apprehended suspicious vehicle locating copper pipe/wire off cuts on 11 May 2018. Pipe/wire valued at \$10,000 identified as being stolen from 24 Iliffe Street, Woolner. Offenders were arrested and prosecuted.

Matter was finalised on 18 February 2019.

Cables and batteries (nil value) stolen from Channel Island Road, Channel Island sometime between 17 March 2018 and 31 May 2018. Reported to Police on 31 May 2018. Complainant stated 'did not want to see Police'. Reported for information and insurance purposes.

Matter was finalised on 31 May 2018.

200m of copper cables valued at about \$10,000 was stolen from 15 Iliffe Street, Woolner between 24 May 2018 and 7 June 2018. Reported to Police on 7 June 2018.

Matter was finalised on 22 August 2018 due to nil suspects, witnesses, CCTV or forensic evidence.

200m of copper cable valued at \$6,000 was stolen from 15 Iliffe Street, Woolner overnight on 7 June 2018. Reported to Police on 8 June 2018. Matter was finalised on 3 July 2018 pending any further information.

15 metres of copper wire valued at \$200 was stolen from power feeder One Mile Dam, Dinah Beach Road, Darwin City on 22 June 2018. Police attended scene at the time. Suspect persons observed 'two Caucasian males with a dog and a white ute'. Nil other details known. Nil further evidence available.

Matter was finalised on 4 July 2018.

30m of copper cable valued at \$3,000 and a demo saw valued at \$800 was stolen overnight on 4 July 2018 from Yarrowonga Sub Station Georgina Crescent, Yarrowonga. Reported to Police on 5 July 2018. Appears job may have been finalised in error.

Finalised on 11 July 2018.

A quantity (amount not specified) of low voltage wiring stolen from a meter box causing damage to the transformer from 213 Dick Ward Drive, Ludmilla between 28 September 2018 to 1 October 2018. Matter was reported to Police for insurance purposes only. Nil suspects, witnesses, CCTV or forensic evidence.

Finalised on 12 October 2018.

A drum containing about 250 metres of 70mm exposed and 250 meters of 700mm covered copper valued at \$10,000 was stolen between 15 November 2018 to 18 November 2018 from the 19 Mile Power and Water (PAWA) Depot (Fred's Pass Reserve, Bees Creek). Nil suspects, witnesses, CCTV or forensic evidence. Checks at the metal scrappers revealed a 'Person of Interest' selling copper cabling 'consistent' with that stolen however, insufficient for prosecution purposes. Information Report submitted.

Finalised on 22 November 2018.

44 metres of 240mm Aluminium cable valued at \$417 was stolen between 4 November 2018 to 5 November 2018 from a worksite situated at 105 Abala Road, Marrara. Nil suspects, witnesses, CCTV or forensic evidence. Finalised on 23 November 2018.

A portable water meter (value not specified) belonging to PAWA, stolen from a worksite situated at Lot 7103 Bonson Terrace, Moulden between 1 December 2018 to 4 December 2018. Nil suspects, witnesses, CCTV or forensic evidence.

Finalised on 4 December 2018.

A quantity of High Voltage cables were cut/damaged at a worksite situated on McMillans Road, Jingili resulting in about \$8,000 worth of damage (nil property reported stolen), which occurred between 11 November 2018 to 11 December 2018. Nil suspects, witnesses, CCTV or forensic evidence. Finalised on 12 December 2018.

A quantity of High Voltage cable valued at \$20,000 was stolen from PAWA main yards situated at Iliffe Street, Woolner during night time hours between 3 January 2019 to 4 January 2019. Offender/s cut a hole in the fence and removed various pieces of cable from various reels. Nil CCTV at the location. Nil suspects, witnesses or forensic evidence.

Finalised on 13 January 2019.

About \$150 of diesel fuel was stolen from fuel tanks located at the PAWA substation situated at Numbulwar Community. Offender/s gained entry inside the yard by cutting the back fence. Nil suspects, witnesses, CCTV or forensic evidence. Matter was reported to Police for insurance purposes only.

About 50 to 80 metres of assorted copper cable to the value of \$300 stolen off drums, situated at PAWA yards (Fred's Pass, Bees Creek) between 16 January 2019 to 17 January 2019. Nil CCTV or other security measures in place. Nil suspects, witnesses, or forensic evidence.

Finalised on 21 January 2019.

A Toyota Hilux utility valued at about \$60,000 was stolen during an unlawful entry from the PAWA office situated at 88 Victoria Highway, Katherine on 3 March 2019. Three youths were prosecuted in relation to the offending. Court cases are ongoing.

A quantity of copper (valued \$800 approximately) was stolen from a PAWA pumping station situated on the Stuart Highway, Coolalinga between 12 March 2019 to 13 March 2019. Offenders cut through fencing at the location and stole numerous items of copper cabling from compound situated within. Nil suspects, witnesses, CCTV or forensic evidence.

Matter is currently under investigation.

A Makita torch (value not specified) stolen from the PAWA shed situated at Lot 48 Daly River, between 29 April 2019 to 30 April 2019. Nil suspects, witnesses, CCTV or forensic evidence.

Matter was reported for insurance purposes only.