

Estimates Committee 2011
Questions Taken On Notice

(14/06/2011 to 23/06/2011)

Date: 16/06/2011

Output:

Sub Output:

Subject: Solar Power in Indigenous Communities

From: Mr Adam Giles to Hon Malarndirri McCarthy
Indigenous Development

5-24

Question:

Minister, how many Indigenous communities have some form of solar power supply in their communities? Minister, who is the provider of installation, repairs and maintenance of solar in Indigenous communities?

Answer:

Answered On: 05/08/2011

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Questions Taken on Notice

Date: 20 July 2011
Regional
Output: 2.0 Local Government,
and Community Services
Sub Output: Remote Management

Subject: Solar Power in Indigenous Communities

From: Mr Adam Giles MLA
To: Hon Malarndirri McCarthy MLA

Department of Housing, Local Government and Regional Services

Number: 5-24

Question: Minister, how many Indigenous communities have some form of solar power supply in their communities? Minister, who is the provider of installation, repairs and maintenance of solar in Indigenous communities?

Answer:

Outstations Program:

Of the 541 eligible outstations throughout the Northern Territory, approximately 485 have some form of solar power in their community. This may include solar hybrid systems, solar panel or panels for basic light, solar panels for community lights, solar panels for submersible pumps and solar panels for telecommunication systems.

While Bushlight is responsible for the installation and maintenance of many of the systems, there is no one body with overall responsibility for installation and maintenance of solar systems. Service providers engage who they wish to install systems and there is no requirement that they must use only one provider for all installation and maintenance of systems.

Indigenous Essential Services:

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Regional Services' Indigenous Essential Services Program provides essential services to 72 Indigenous communities and 67 outstations connected to the remote distribution networks. Services are delivered under contract to Indigenous Essential Services Pty Ltd, a wholly owned, not for profit, subsidiary of the Power Water Corporation (PWC). The response provided relates specifically to these communities.

Power and Water owns and operates solar photovoltaic (PV) power systems in six communities, as follows:-

Community	Solar Capacity (kilowatts)	Primary Energy Source
Hermannsburg	192	Diesel
Yuendumu	240	Diesel
Lajamanu	290	Diesel
Bulman	55	Diesel
Jilkminggan	17.3	Natural Gas
Bulla	4.6	Diesel
Total	798.9	

Additional solar systems are under construction at Kalkarindji (402 kilowatts) and Alpururulam (266 kilowatts).

Solar systems contribute to the supply of electricity in remote areas, particularly the solar PV systems in Hermannsburg, Yuendumu and Lajamanu which were installed by a private company that owned and operated the systems until April 2010 when IES Pty Ltd purchased the systems and undertook the repairs and maintenance services as required.

The Bulman, Jilkminggan and Bulla solar systems were installed and are maintained by Power Water Corporation.

Solar PV is being installed on school buildings at 16 Growth towns and Indigenous communities, funded under the Federal Government's Building Education Revolution and National Solar Schools Programs. These systems range in size from 7 kilowatts to 85 kilowatts, with a combined capacity of approximately 300 kilowatts. The Northern Territory Department of Education will install, repair and maintain these solar systems.
