

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

## WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Elferink

to

Minister for Essential Services

**PowerWater Corporation infrastructure Palumpa**

Power Water Corporation (PWC) receives funding from the Northern Territory Government in the establishment of a community service obligation to provide water and sewerage services to all customers at uniform tariffs.

With regard to the Palumpa community, and since October 2008:

1. How many PWC and contract personnel are permanently stationed in Palumpa.
2. How many persons, in any capacity and described by the task undertaken, attended Palumpa on behalf of PWC.
3. What activities were undertaken.
4. What was the value of work undertaken.
5. What recommendations have been made in regard to the repair, maintenance or replacement of PWC and associated infrastructure.

**ANSWER**

- 1. How many PWC and contract personnel are permanently stationed in Palumpa?**

Power and Water does not have any employees stationed at Palumpa.

Power and Water has awarded a 5 year contract, which commenced on 1 July 2008, to the Victoria Daly Shire Council for Essential Services Operations. Under this contract, the Victoria Daly Shire Council provides services for day to day operations and maintenance for the provision of electricity supply, water supply and sewerage for nominated Indigenous communities within the Shire including Palumpa, Wudapuli and Nama. These 3 communities are supplied with electricity from the Palumpa power station through a regional power grid. Each community has separate water supply and sewerage systems. The Victoria Daly Shire Council employs an Essential Services Operator based at Palumpa in order to undertake the contract works, and provides additional support as required.

## 2. How many persons, in any capacity and described by the task undertaken, attended Palumpa on behalf of PWC.

Orders were placed for work at Palumpa from October 2008 until the end of February 2009 with the following companies:

- Powercorp Pty Ltd
- AA Electrical Pty Ltd
- ITT Water & Wastewater Aust Ltd T/As ITT Flygt Limited
- MG Electrical Services P/L
- AG Drilling NT P/L
- David Reddy (Wadeye Essential Services Operations Contractor)
- Victoria Daly Shire Council
- Crom Pty Ltd T/As Dig Hard Excavations
- Hardy Aviation (NT) Pty Ltd
- ABB Australia (Darwin)
- MTU Detroit Diesel Australia Pty Ltd
- Direct Air Charter

Given the nature of the contracts where orders are placed for work to be performed, services required and materials or goods to be provided; and paid for on the same basis; the total number of people who “attended Palumpa” over the period under the orders is not recorded.

## 3. What activities were undertaken?

The activities undertaken involve the day to day operations and maintenance for the provision of electricity supply, water supply and sewerage undertaken by the Victoria Daly Shire Council. In addition orders were placed for unforeseen maintenance and cyclic maintenance on the power, water and sewerage systems.

## 4. What was the value of work undertaken?

The value of the work is best described by the estimate cost of the work to be undertaken for the day to day operations and maintenance for the provision of electricity supply, water supply and sewerage by the Victoria Daly Shire Council for Palumpa, Wudapuli and Nama, over a 12 month period.

<b>Palumpa</b>	<b>\$114,434.71</b>	<b>Wudapuli / Nama</b>	<b>\$44,557.81</b>
Power	\$48,637.56	Power	\$963.12
Water	\$48,517.17	Water	\$36,628.12
Sewer	\$17,279.98	Sewer	\$6,966.57

In addition the following capital works have been undertaken, for the 2008-09 financial year to the end of February, 2009:-

<b>Capital Works</b>	<b>\$2,027,965.60</b>
New Service Connections (electricity)	\$24,846.04
Replacement Pumps (water and sewer)	\$16,856.56
Palumpa – Installation of 500kw Generating Unit	\$ 84,368.00

Wudapuli>Nama – HV Grid Connection and LV Network \$ 1,901,895.00

It should be noted that funding for the Wudapuli>Nama – HV Grid Connection and LV Network was provided by the Australian Government through the Department of Planning and Infrastructure to Power and Water as a Recoverable Works programme item.

In addition orders were placed for the following works or services; for the 2008-09 financial year to the end of February, 2009:-

**Unforeseen Maintenance \$ 79,610.11**

Power (Electrical and Distribution infrastructure)	\$ 18,167.48
Power (Generation infrastructure)	\$ 4,454.77
Water supply	\$ 16,496.18
Sewerage	\$ 40,491.68

**Cyclic Maintenance \$ 45,678.61**

Power (Electrical and Distribution infrastructure)	\$ 11,132.04
Power (Generation infrastructure)	\$ 4,981.99
Water supply	\$ 16,094.38
Sewerage	\$ 13,470.20

**5. What recommendations have been made in regard to the repair, maintenance or replacement of PWC and associated infrastructure?**

The ground level and elevated water storage facilities are recommended for replacement with larger capacity facilities. A concept plan is being developed considering the options for location of the facilities, water reticulation design and possible expansion of serviced areas.

Power and Water has recommended that existing septic tanks, the assets of the facility owner, be serviced through pumping out using specialized pumping equipment to remove the sillage, inspected, and that any necessary rectification works from the inspection be undertaken consistent with plumbing standards and good practice.

Power and Water will prepare an options study to improve sewerage facilities in the area of the community impacted by flooding, including the school, health clinic and council facilities.