

**Question No: 24**

**Question: Power and Water Costs At Communities**

**Date: 30/04/91**

**Member: Mr EDE**

**To: MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS**

With reference to communities with a population greater than 100 -

1. What proportion of these communities have (a) power; and (b) water charges levied on government departments, government employees, councils, stores, etc.
2. In how many and what proportion of the major communities are charges pertaining to non-departmental housing levied by direct reduction of grants to those communities.
3. What is the assessed additional revenue capable of being collected should metered power be extended to non-departmental housing.
4. For (a) power; and (b) water, what would be the cost of -
  - (a) metering all non-departmental housing;
  - (b) maintenance; and
  - (c) collection of charges by the Power and Water Authority employees on these communities.
5. What is the overall recovery rate for (a) domestic; and (b) commercial power charge collection across the Territory.

With reference to communities with a population less than 100 -

6. What proportion of these communities have electricity supplied by the Power and Water Authority.
7. In what proportion of these communities are (a) power; and (b) water charges levied on government departments, government employees, councils, stores, etc.
8. What is the assessed cash surplus of revenue over expenditure that would result from metering for power and water for non-departmental housing in these communities.

**ANSWER**

1. a) 62 of the 64 communities with a population greater than 100.  
b) 62 of the 64 communities with a population greater than 100.
2. Nil.
3. Additional revenue assessed for charges pertaining to electricity supplied to domestic non-departmental customers is \$1.25m per annum.
4. (a)  
(a) Electricity meters were installed for all customers in 1986-87 and 1987-88. A

relatively small number of new connections will require meter installations and damaged meters will require replacement prior to implementation of charging for all customers. The number of new meters to be installed has not been surveyed at this time.

(b) and (c)

The estimated combined cost of maintenance and collection of charges for stage 2 electricity billing is \$250 000.

4. (b)

(a) The assessed cost of installation of water meters for stage 2 billing is \$1.5m.

(b) and (c)

The estimated combined cost for stage 2 maintenance and collection of charges for water billing has not been assessed at this time.

5. (a) and (b)

The overall recovery rate based on value of sales in the 1989-90 financial year was 99.35%. The split into domestic and commercial customers is not available.

6. 11 communities out of an estimated 610 are supplied with electricity.

7. (a) 10 out of 11 communities referred to in answer to question 6.

(b) 4 out of the 11 communities referred to under part 7(a), or 4 communities out of an estimated 450 provided with a water supply.

8. The assessed net revenue associated with the introduction of stage 2 billing is \$390 000 per annum for electricity. However, the total revenue from billing is significantly lower than the costs associated with the provision of the service.

The net revenue for stage 2 billing for water has not been established to date.