



Delia Lawrie
TREASURER

Thursday, 13 August 2009

New Utilities Commissioner Appointed

The Treasurer, Delia Lawrie, today announced Mr Andrew Reeves as the Northern Territory's new Utilities Commissioner.

Ms Lawrie also announced today the appointment of Mr Mike Robson and Mr Peter Caldwell as Associate Utilities Commissioners.

"The Henderson Government recognises the importance of reliable and affordable power supply for Territorians which is why we have strengthened and expanded the role of the Utilities Commission which is the industry's independent regulator," Ms Lawrie said.

"Andrew Reeves brings a wealth of experience to the role of Commissioner including as a member of the national independent regulator and a previous Tasmanian energy regulator.

"His role is to independently oversee the operations of the Power and Water Corporation as well as put in place a priority works program which the Government has developed to improve PWC's efficiency as well as standards and reliability of supply for customers.

"Mr Reeves will be supported by Mike Robson who is as a technical systems expert and Peter Caldwell who is an expert in the NT power market."

The priority works program includes:

- Review of PWC's capital works program and asset management process;
- Review of adequacy of existing reliability, quality and customer service standards for electricity;
- Review of options for monitoring and oversight of retail electricity prices; and,
- Review of the NT's electricity system planning and performance monitoring framework.

Ms Lawrie said the Henderson Government was investing in the Territory's power and water services to improve reliability and to help meet future demand.

"The Henderson Government is rolling out a \$1.4 billion five year repair and maintenance program to increase reliability of supply and ensure the NT can meet growing demand," she said.

"We have also boosted scrutiny of PWC including the ensuring of guaranteed service standards and penalties are met and increased oversight of the corporation's capital program, prices, customer standards and system reliability."

Media Contact: *Campbel Giles 0407 972 900*

