PWC trial takes service to new heights

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The Power and Water Corporation (PWC) is trialling the effectiveness of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) to inspect electricity lines in rural and remote places across the Northern Territory.

Minister for Essential Services Willem Westra van Holthe said the trial will investigate the potential to cut PWC operating costs.

“The Country Liberals Government remains committed to bringing the cost of living down for Territorians,” Minister Westra van Holthe said.

“If this UAV trial is successful in bringing down operating costs, that could see less upward pressure on electricity prices in the future.

“Transmission line inspections currently take up a huge amount of man power, with ground based inspections, aerial inspection, climbing and elevated work platforms.

“With more than 10,265 kilometres of power line across the Northern Territory, these inspections have access limitations that may be overcome with the use of UAV’s,” Minister Westra van Holthe said.

The use of UAV’s by PWC would supplement existing methods and provide more flexibility with available resources.

PWC’s General Manager of Power Networks John Greenwood said the technology is being provided by local business BT Remote Solutions.

“The UAV we’re using is an ASCTES Flacon 8, which can be fitted with a range of cameras depending on the work required,” Mr. Greenwood said.

“Our trial will be carried out on the new 66KV transmission line to Leanyer and will involve both still image cameras and video cameras.

“We believe this technology could see many more power lines inspected in a day and with a lot more ease,” he said.

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