## What is the transfer about?

The WA Government wants to make power and water services better for people living in remote Aboriginal communities.

Power and water services to 141 remote Aboriginal communities in the Kimberley, Pilbara, Midwest and Goldfields are now provided by the Department of Communities.

That will change commencing from 1 April 2023 when Horizon Power and Water Corporation become responsible for power and water services to those remote Aboriginal communities.

## What are the benefits to communities?

Horizon Power and Water Corporation have decades of experience in utility services, including in remote WA, and are expertly placed to manage power and water services.

The transfer to Horizon Power and Water Corporation will support safe, efficient and reliable power and water services, improved liveability, and better long-term health and wellbeing.

Power and water infrastructure will be progressively upgraded so that, over time, residents of remote Aboriginal communities will receive the same standard of power and water services as similar sized communities in the State.

## What will change for remote communities? Nothing will change for remote communities immediately or on a day-to-day basis.

## The Aboriginal-owned regional service providers that currently visit remote communities to repair and maintain power and water infrastructure will continue to do so.

## Commencing from 1 April 2023 those regional service providers will be administered by Horizon Power (for power services) and Water Corporation (for water services) rather than by the Department of Communities.

## Long-term change will see power and water infrastructure in remote Aboriginal communities upgraded and water quality improved.

## Will billing for power and water change?

## The WA Government recognises the already high cost of living in remote Aboriginal communities and is working to ensure no one is worse off because of the transfer.   In the coming months, Horizon Power and Water Corporation will consult with people in remote communities about cost of living pressures to inform a long-term plan for the administration of charges.

Until a plan is developed, there will be no changes to current household power and water billing arrangements.

## What experience do Horizon Power and Water Corporation have?

Horizon Power and Water Corporation are owned by the WA Government and are specialist power and water utility operators with experience working with remote Aboriginal communities.

**Horizon Power**

Horizon Power services regional towns and remote communities from Esperance in the south of WA to Kalumburu in the far north.

Horizon Power has been working with Aboriginal communities to regularise power services for many years. It has regularised power in 53 communities, providing those residents with the same standard of power quality, safety and reliability as other towns and cities across the State.

**Water Corporation**

Water Corporation has been working with several large Aboriginal communities to improve water service delivery with infrastructure upgrades.

Water Corporation is ensuring people living in those communities have access to safe and reliable drinking water and wastewater facilities to improve their overall health and wellbeing.

## Which remote communities will be affected by the transfer?

The communities affected by the transfer are those that currently receive power and/or water services through the Department of Communities’ [Remote Essential and Municipal Services](https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-communities/remote-essential-and-municipal-services) program.

A list of the 141 communities and the services provided to them is available here: [Remote Essential and Municipal Services - Services Provided (](https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/remote-essential-and-municipal-services-services-provided)[www.wa.gov.au](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cpipst%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CTPY4E3SF%5Cwww.wa.gov.au))

## Where can I find more information?

Visit the [www.communities.wa.gov.au/powerwater](http://www.communities.wa.gov.au/powerwater) webpage.