

Kalbarri Micro grid

I am a resident of Kalbarri.

The result of the many power issues we have had leaves the Kalbarri community frustrated.

We had a 6 hour outage only a couple of weeks ago.

Because we are on end of line and not near any major community (Geraldton is some 165Klms away) when power goes off it takes a long time for a response.

Most outages are for periods greater than 6 hours which causes major issues, not only for business but residents alike.

Most business have power generators, along with many locals which costs money to buy, run and service.

Tourism plays a major role in Kalbarri without these visitors Kalbarri would slowly become a ghost town.

With the Skywalks programme due for completion in early 2018 visitor numbers will increase placing more pressure on the electricity supply.

Nothing worse than sitting around in 40 degree temperatures with no electricity, hence no cooling and many businesses closed.

I was involved in the micro-grid community group discussions with Western Power.

The outcome was for a micro-grid to overcome the many outages we have suffered.

The community and business alike support this and it is essential to maintaining visitor numbers.

Given that the Kalbarri Micro-grid will be feasible, efficient and overcome the many issues the lack of electrical supply creates it should be funded and implemented.

Western Power should also look at any other non-traditional methods to supply electricity, not only for Kalbarri but Western Australia as a whole.

I only hope that the State Government of Western Australia fully understand the issues we have faced and ensure funding is approved.

Stewart Smith
Kalbarri Resident