

# Light and Life in the Bush

**BUSH LIGHT**

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[www.bushlight.org.au](http://www.bushlight.org.au)



## 10 Mile

### The Setting

This Fact Sheet provides information about the Bushlight Community System installed at 10 Mile. The system provides power for two houses. This system was commissioned on the 11<sup>th</sup> of April 2006

### Background

10 Mile outstation is situated south east of Tenant Creek it is in the proximity of the Davenport ranges. The community is the family's homelands. Prior to the Bushlight System being installed they were unable to access any power or energy source as they did not have a generator. The Bushlight system provides power to two new houses previously the community lived in the open.

### Community Energy Planning Process

Bushlight has developed a participative approach to energy planning called the Community Energy Planning Model. Facilitated by regional Bushlight staff, this process assists householders to make informed decisions about their specific energy needs, including generation and consumption, which ultimately influences the most appropriate energy service options.

### Basic Technical Information

The maximum daily AC load of the system is 13.30 kWh/day.

There are no DC loads.

The following major components are used:

- PV array - ground mounted with a capacity of 4.55kWp (total of 26 x 175W panels)
- Battery bank - Capacity of 1200Ah @ 48VDC providing 2 days of storage at 23% average daily depth of discharge.
- Inverter – 3.3kW @ 40°C, with expected peak and surge loads of 2.7kW and 5.4kVA respectively
- Energy Management Units (EMU) - electricity metering and management devices that replace household switchboards.
- The total project cost was approximately \$139,387. This included system mobilisation and installation, two service visits in the first year and additional works such as reticulation, installation of ceiling fans and replacing switchboards with EMUs. The Northern Territory Government Renewable Energy Rebate Program provided a rebate of approximately \$61,879 on the total cost.

## Monthly Load Variations

The design load allows for the maximum daily power consumption to occur during the summer months when fridges and freezer are cycling more frequently and ceiling fan use is greater.

## Demand Side Management

To minimise the risk of excessive power usage the following strategies have been implemented in consultation with the residents:

- An EMU has been installed at each of the three houses. The primary purpose of the EMU is to control the total load on the system, and ensure a fair and equitable distribution of power by providing each household with a predetermined amount of energy (the 'energy budget') each day.



*Energy Management Unit*

- Each EMU incorporates an intuitive user interface to aid energy management
- Low amp circuit breakers have been installed to prevent the usage of high power demand appliances
- Individual device timers have been installed for certain lights. The duration of these timers have been set to meet residents' needs
- Centrally controlled timers have been installed for light, fan and general power circuits. The duration of the timers have been set to meet residents' needs

In addition to the technical demand side management measures, Bushlight staff have facilitated a range of education and training

activities to assist residents to manage their power consumption appropriately.

During pre-installation discussions residents agreed to use certain appliances, such as washing machines, only when there is enough power available. The best time to use them is in the morning, before the EMU resets the energy budget at midday.

## Appliance Acquisition & Replacement

As part of the overall approach to demand side energy management, inefficient appliances are identified and replaced as the community is able to do so. At Moojeeba an old, inefficient refrigerator was replaced with an appropriately sized new energy efficient unit. Spotlights, incandescent lights and 40W fluorescent lights were replaced with 20W fluorescent lights.

## Generator Use

The existing generator was connected to the solar system to enable battery charging when the generator is running.

The following situations have been identified where the generator may need to be run:

- During extended periods of cloud cover
- When the community wishes to use power tools or kitchen appliances

## Other Energy Services

In addition to the energy being supplied by the Bushlight Systems, 10 Mile residents continue to rely on the following additional energy sources:

- Firewood for cooking outside
- Gas for cooking inside
- Thermal solar hot water service
- Solar Bore Pump