

Owen Springs Power Station

The Owen Springs Power Station project will provide future electricity generation for the Central Australian town of Alice Springs.

Three new 10.9MW MAN engines will be installed at the site, at Brewer Industrial Estate, in 2010.

These 230 tonne engines have been shipped from Germany to Darwin, then transported some 1500km by road to Alice Springs.

Moving an engine of this weight is an incredible logistical exercise. The engine arrived at East Arm Wharf on a specialist heavy lift ship with cranes to transfer it to a custom-built trailer.

The 70-metre trailer had 216 wheels on 18 axles to spread the load.

This travels in convoy with Power Networks crews, who lift or drop powerlines to allow the engine to pass safely, as well as police and heavy vehicle escorts.



ABOVE: The engine being unloaded at East Arm Wharf and BELOW: delivered into Owen Springs Power Station.



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ABOVE: Owen Springs Power Station in April 2010 and BELOW RIGHT: Lovegrove Zone Substation switching yard.

Frequently asked questions

Where is Owen Springs Power Station?

At Brewer Industrial Estate, 25km outside Alice Springs town.

How much power does it produce?

The three engines that will arrive in Owen Springs in 2010 will total just over 32MW. Alice Springs' peak demand on a hot day is about 54MW,

What fuels it?

Liquid natural gas fed through the pipeline that runs from Wadeye on the North coast of the Northern Territory to the Mereenie Basin in Central Australia.

How does that power get to my home or business?

A substation is being built at Owen Springs to step the power up to 66,000 volts for transmission into town.

Electricity is transmitted along these lines - overhead and underground - to the Lovegrove Zone Substation where it is stepped down to 11,000 volts for distribution to homes and businesses.

What will happen to Ron Goodin Power Station in town?

This will be gradually decommissioned. A 4MW unit has already been taken from Ron Gooden to Owen Springs.

How much is the project worth?

This is a total \$126 million investment in Alice Springs' future power supply.

