



Centre for Appropriate
Technology Limited

Media release

Yolŋu get power savvy

Residents of six East Arnhem Land communities are making more informed decisions about their power and water use since participating in the Manymak Energy Efficiency Project between 2013-16.

The Centre for Appropriate Technology Ltd. (CAT) was part of a consortium led by Power and Water Corporation delivering the \$12.5M project. CAT's role focused on the design and implementation of the community engagement and education program. The foundation of the program was the training and employment of 81 Yolŋu Energy Efficiency Workers who were tasked with delivering household energy efficiency education and engagement in their communities.

The Yolŋu Workers were for the most part, trained in *Yolŋu Matha* by experienced bilingual trainers. Once trained in energy and water efficiency concepts and skills, they carried out 2772 house visits with more than 500 houses across the six communities. The project approach was framed by Yolŋu cultural protocols, and the program of employing local Yolŋu became the vehicle not only for engagement and education, but broader project design, and implementation. This approach ensured the aims and drivers of the project was understood by Yolŋu in their own terms.

'Have Yolŋu lead the program in the communities, I think that's a big key to educating Yolŋu people'.

Yolŋu Energy Efficiency Worker

Community buy in and participation was central to the project's design and its later success. The Yolŋu workers were of critical importance to this, and as local people, they were able to approach and engage households through culturally correct relationships and in language.

In addition to the engagement aspect of the project, CAT Ltd and its subsidiary CAT Projects designed and delivered 252 in home energy displays, allowing residents to see 'at a glance' how much power they're using in real time in their home, as well as what it is costing them.

CAT's skills and expertise is in delivering innovative and appropriate technologies, which draws from the understanding gained through effective engagement and maximizes benefit for the community, now and into the future

CAT CEO Dr Steve Rogers

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Along with 19 other projects nationally, the Manymak Energy Efficiency Project was part of the Australian Government's Low Income Energy Efficiency Program, and received funding through the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science. The project partners were Power and Water Corporation, Centre for Appropriate Technology, Charles Darwin University, NT Department of Housing and East Arnhem Regional Council.

For more information about CAT's approach to community engagement, visit: <http://www.cat.org.au/utopia-homelands-project/>

To see more information about the BEEBox visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8XWl-lEgeXQ&feature=youtu.be>

To see the Yolngu Workers in action visit:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vLrolGUPeZ4&feature=youtu.be>

For more information and to read the summary report, visit: www.powerwater.com.au/lieep

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