

## NTEC discounts UFO theory and blames other flying things

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY Electricity Commission has discounted the theory that Unidentified Flying Objects were responsible for the lengthy power failure in the Larrimah, Katherine and Pine Creek area on Monday evening.

Reports from Roper Bar, Gove and Darwin of a brightly coloured object "falling" through the sky reached police on Tuesday morning.

All reports put the UFO in the Katherine region at the same time as the power failed and telephones apparently went on the blink.

But NTEC spokesman Bob Young said a flying fox caused an initial power breakdown when

it landed on the main Katherine feeder, a problem which was exacerbated when the main protection system failed at the same time.

Blackouts lasted from 20 minutes to 90 minutes in some areas, but power was fully restored by 11pm.

Reports of flying objects came from Darwinman Rick Trippe who said the brightly col-

oured objects "were definitely not flares", and did not come from an aeroplane.

He was unable to clearly describe what he saw, or what he thought he saw.

Darwin Bureau of Meteorology has no "physical" explanation for the event, and received no unusual reports from weather observers.

Another reported sighting was in South Australia!