

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Lambley to the Chief Minister:

Port Darwin

It has been confirmed that the Federal Department of Defence is currently reviewing the controversial 2015 decision for a 99 year lease of the Darwin Port to Landbridge Group, a Chinese owned company.

This deal includes 100% operational control and 80% ownership of the Port by Landbridge.

1. What is your Government's current position on this deal?
 2. If advised that this lease is not in the National Interest, what will the NT Government do?
 3. Will you support the Northern Territory buying back the lease from Landbridge?
 4. What is your Government's plan for addressing this scenario?
 5. If the Northern Territory decides to buy back the lease, where will this money be sourced from?
 6. The NT Government has a 20% stake or interest in the Darwin Port. What does that mean in practice?
 7. Does the NT Government have a say in the operation of the Darwin Port?
 8. How often does the NT Government meet with Landbridge to discuss Darwin Port business and operation?
 9. If a disagreement arises between the NT Government and Landbridge about decisions made on the Darwin Port does your Government have much influence as a 20% shareholder?
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ANSWER

1. What is your Government's current position on this deal?

Our position has never changed, unlike the Member for Araluen and the CLP, we would not have chosen to lease the Darwin Port, specifically land and facilities at East Arm and Fort Hill Wharf, for 99 years.

2. If advised that this lease is not in the National Interest, what will the NT Government do?

This is a question for the Australian Government who determines the National interest.

3. Will you support the Northern Territory buying back the lease from Landbridge?

Refer question 2.

4. What is your Government's plan for addressing this scenario?

Refer question 2.

5. If the Northern Territory decides to buy back the lease, where will this money be sourced from?

Refer question 2.

6. The NT Government has a 20% stake or interest in the Darwin Port. What does that mean in practice?

As the NT Government doesn't contribute to capital investment or operating costs as a shareholder could be expected to, it does not receive a financial return for the 20% stake.

7. Does the NT Government have a say in the operation of the Darwin Port?

The arrangement provides the NT Government insight into Darwin Port operations, including in appointments to key positions at the Darwin Port and at Landbridge.

8. How often does the NT Government meet with Landbridge to discuss Darwin Port business and operation?

The NT Government and Landbridge hold regular meetings to discuss Darwin Port business and operations.

9. If a disagreement arises between the NT Government and Landbridge about decisions made on the Darwin Port does your Government have much influence as a 20% shareholder?

Decisions made at the Darwin Port are oversighted by the Utilities Commission.