



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 143

WRITTEN QUESTION

J Davis to the Minister for Territory Coordinator, Hon Lia Finocchiaro MLA:

Territory Coordinator – benchmarks and stakeholder engagement

- 1. What work has been done on developing benchmarks for defining economic significance under the *Territory Coordinator Act 2025*?**

Economic significance will be determined on a case-by-case basis having regard to section 4 of the *Territory Coordinator Act 2025*, which provides that project or development is of economic significance to the Territory, or a region of the Territory, if the project or development facilitates private sector investment, job creation, population growth or the development or advancement of an industry.

- 2. What are the consequences if the anticipated benchmarks are not reached during the life of a project or development?**

Not applicable. The *Territory Coordinator Act 2025* does not set benchmarks.

- 3. How will Territorians be assured that only projects of genuine and lasting economic significance to the Territory will be the focus of the Territory Coordinator's attention?**

The Act provides clear criteria for the declaration of significant projects, which requires that they be of economic significance to the Territory or a part of the Territory, which is determined with reference to section 4 of the *Territory Coordinator Act 2025*.

- 4. The Budget indicates that the Territory Coordinator plans to conduct 120 stakeholder engagements. How was this number determined?**

- a. What will be counted as an engagement? For example, will a meeting, phone call, or public forum each count as an engagement?**

The target of 120 stakeholder engagements reflects a strategic commitment towards active and meaningful engagement in support of the Territory Coordinator's statutory functions. It was set to compliment the scale and complexity of the Territory's economic development priorities. Engagements counted toward this target include face-to-face meetings, virtual meetings, public forums and events. Routine phone calls are not included.

5. Who will the Territory Coordinator engage with under this plan?

- a. Will there be a breakdown of stakeholders—such as industry, Aboriginal organisations, regional councils, community groups, and environmental bodies?**

The Territory Coordinator has focused on foundational activities, including proactive engagement with government, industry, Aboriginal organisations, Local Government and regional councils, community groups and environmental bodies, to increase awareness of the *Territory Coordinator Act 2025*, build relationships and gather valuable insights.

6. How will the Territory Coordinator determine which stakeholders to prioritise for engagement?

- a. Will there be a formal stakeholder engagement strategy or selection criteria?**

The Territory Coordinator uses a structured, strategic approach to identify and prioritise stakeholders based on their potential impact on economic outcomes and specific project schedule status.

7. Will interpreters be made available for stakeholders who speak languages other than English, including Aboriginal languages?

The Territory Coordinator is committed to ensuring inclusive and culturally appropriate engagement. If communication with stakeholders is not possible using the English language, alternate communication techniques will be considered, including the use of interpreter services.

8. Will the Territory Coordinator engage directly with people living in remote Northern Territory communities?

- a. If so, how will this be determined, and what will be the format of those engagements?**

Yes, in those circumstances whereby exercising the powers under the *Territory Coordinator Act 2025* requires engagement with people living in remote Northern Territory communities. These engagements will most likely occur in community.

9. How will feedback from these stakeholder engagements be recorded and used?

- a. Will reports or summaries be made public to ensure transparency?**

Stakeholder feedback will be recorded using various methods, including note taking or submissions. This feedback will be considered during decision making processes.

The *Territory Coordinator Act 2025* includes a range of requirements around the publishing of notices and statements of reasons to support public transparency and accountability.

- 10. What projects and works are currently being investigated for potential designation as Significant Projects or Programs of Works under the *Territory Coordinator Act*?**
- a. What areas of the Territory are currently being investigated as potential Infrastructure Coordination Areas or Territory Development Areas?**
 - b. Will Ministerial Notices under the Act be published online and if so, how soon after signing a Ministerial notice will it be published?**

The Office of the Territory Coordinator is in regular discussions with relevant agencies and project proponents on potential Significant Projects, Programs of Work and Territory Development Areas. These investigations focus on economic significance, complexity and strategic alignment.

Any designations will follow the statutory process. Ministerial Notices under the *Territory Coordinator Act 2025* will be published on the Northern Territory Government website within five business days of signing.