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[Editor's Note: Earlier this day the Leader of Government Business advised that the Minister for Housing and Community Development would be absent during Question Time.]

### **Sally McManus' Comments**

#### **Mrs FINOCCHIARO to ATTORNEY-GENERAL and JUSTICE**

Your union colleague, newly-elected ACT secretary, Sally McManus, stated on the ABC 7.30 program last night:

*I believe in the rule of law where the law is fair and the law is right. But when it's unjust I don't think there's a problem with breaking it.*

As Attorney-General, do you support your union colleague's sentiment that unions are essentially above the law? Is this the kind of attitude Territorians should expect from Labor and the union movement?

#### **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, it is very important that as much as we have passionate and robust debate, we must still obey the law at all times. If you do not like a law, that does not give you permission to break it. If you do not like a law, you need to set out to change it. It is very important that we understand the frustration in this context, but at all times we must respect that there is legislation in place to protect our community, and through the democratic process there is opportunity to voice concern.

As the Attorney-General of the Northern Territory I do not support the sentiment indicated by the question of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. It is clear that if there are laws in place, you must obey them. If you have problems with them, then you must, through the democratic process of a free voice we are given in Australia, set out to change it.

### **Immediate Work Grants**

#### **Mrs WORDEN to CHIEF MINISTER**

From my electorate of Sanderson, the Darwin Toy Library will receive just over \$31 000 towards much-needed building works and repairs as part of the Immediate Work Grants for community and not-for-profit organisations. How is the government supporting jobs in my electorate of Sanderson, and across the Territory, under this good program?

#### **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, the Toy Library does great work. The government will do what it can to create and support jobs in the Northern Territory because we understand that a secure and rewarding job is the best way to improve quality of life. There is no greater means for change in economies, communities and individuals than the creation of jobs.

When we go about doing this by creating stimulus projects, how can we also provide a community return? The Immediate Works Stimulus Package is a fantastic example of how you can stimulate work in the Territory, create jobs and reward great organisations, like the Toy Library, that do such good work.

It is through the creation of jobs that we will diversify our economy and provide confidence and certainty in the community. Jobs generate pride, self-esteem and purpose in the lives of Territorians. That is why this government is investing in job creation across the Northern Territory.

There is no doubt the Territory is facing some tough times. We have heard many Territory businesses say that 2016 was the toughest year they had. Unfortunately the CLP government had no plan for the wind down of the INPEX construction phase. We are putting a plan in place right now to create certainty and confidence, create jobs in the Northern Territory and tackle the economic repair that was left undone by the CLP. We recognise the challenge and are working on it.

We recognise that government spending cannot entirely substitute for the slowing of private investment, but it can make a difference. It can reduce the impact by creating jobs and supporting Territorians in jobs. That is what we will do. That is why the government has announced a range of economic stimulus measures, a

massive capital works program and has beefed up the Buy Local principles. This will keep money flowing to local businesses when they need it the most, which is right now.

Overall, government expenditure at the end of February 2017 was \$550m compared to \$446m at the same time last year. We have spent \$317m on infrastructure, \$197m on roads and \$36m on housing. The \$10m Immediate Works Grants for community and not-for-profit organisations is a short-term program, but it will make a difference and create jobs. It is targeted, timely and temporary. It is designed to create jobs and get the money flowing to tradies and businesses in the lead-up to the \$120m of fast-tracked, bigger infrastructure projects commencing later this year.

It has been extremely successful due to the overwhelming response of not-for-profit organisations and community groups. Applications for the program closed on 3 March. More than \$5.5m has already been injected into the local economy through this program. The remaining funds will be fully allocated when the pending applications have been processed. There were 312 applications received and 139 business registrations approved. It is a fantastic program that is delivering the real benefit of jobs in the Territory and a benefit to tradies and community groups.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Chief Minister, your time has expired.

**Don Dale**

**Mrs FINOCCHIARO to ATTORNEY-GENERAL and JUSTICE referred to MINISTER for TERRITORY FAMILIES**

On 26 July last year the Chief Minister committed to closing Don Dale as soon as possible. You have now been in government for seven months with apparently no move to do so. At the community crime meeting on 6 March the Minister for Territory Families, in an attempt to appear tough on crime, boasted that there are 54 young people in custody versus 26 when you came to government.

When will you fulfil the government's election promise and close Don Dale? When will construction commence on the new juvenile detention centre?

**ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, we have significant challenges with infrastructure and we were clear about that going into the election. Youth justice is a specialist area of work. It requires specialist infrastructure. We inherited two youth detention centres that are housed inside adult correctional facilities, which is inappropriate.

This is a large piece of work to undertake. We have started initial work and looked at the type of design we need. The CEO and Deputy CEO, Jeanette Kerr, are responsible for rolling out the reforms to youth justice. They have looked at other models interstate, particularly the South Australian facility. It is an impressive piece of work undertaken by the South Australian Labor government. We are working with the Royal Commission; we expect it will make strong recommendations in this area.

Work is continuing. We want the right outcome to this significant investment. We have to first focus on kids on bail. We must ensure they have support and we have the right staff in the rehabilitation centres. That is the most important asset when getting kids back on the straight and narrow. We are continuing work on building those facilities. It is a big project, so we are taking it step-by-step in a sensible, staged manner to achieve good outcomes.

What we saw under the last government was panicked decision-making that resulted in money being spent on inappropriate facilities. It feels like we are trying to make a pig's ear into a purse with those facilities. We have to make sure they are safe at the moment, and will continue to do so.

**SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

**Don Dale**

**Mrs FINOCCHIARO to MINISTER for TERRITORY FAMILIES**

How much has been spent on renovating, upgrading and maintaining Don Dale since you came to government?

**ANSWER**

We had to spend some immediate money. On my very first afternoon as minister I went to Don Dale. I was appalled by the amount of hang points that were available. As someone who has run a crisis facility and as a minister I made some very clear directions that once and for all they had to be fixed. I also made clear directions to ensure there was air conditioning in the behaviour cell. These are basic things.

**Mrs FINOCCHIARO:** A point of order, Madam Speaker!

**Madam SPEAKER:** No, it is not a point of order. The minister is answering your question; she is getting to it.

**Ms WAKEFIELD:** We are continuing to work on fire safety, which was insufficient. This money is about our duty of care as a government to ensure those children are safe in the facility, and we are doing that. I am happy to provide you with the exact expenditure.

**Stamp Duty Discount and Home Renovation Package**

**Mr SIEVERS to DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER**

Can you update the House on the success of the government's first home owner stamp duty discount, and the \$10 000 home renovation package? How are the government's decisions helping more Territorians to stay here and create more Territory jobs?

**ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, we want to see more people stay in the Northern Territory. A great way to do that is to ensure people can get into the housing market to buy their own home. We are proud of the changes we made to stamp duty concessions available for first home owners. This is something we implemented right away when we came into government. We did this to ensure we opened the real estate market to those who desperately wanted to buy their own home.

We are thrilled with the rates and uptake we have had across the Northern Territory. I am thrilled to say we have now helped 325 Territorians buy their own piece of the Northern Territory. We have seen some great figures, with 141 people in Darwin, 83 in Palmerston, 19 in the rural area, 72 in Alice Springs and eight in Katherine. We have also seen a purchase in the Tiwi Islands, which is great news for the Member for Arafura. There has been a purchase in Tennant Creek as well.

Ultimately it has been about helping people get their foot in the door and a roof over their head. It is also about ensuring they are building their long-term financial future in the Northern Territory, which is fantastic because the place where you own a home is likely the place where you choose to be. We want to see more people choosing to stay in the Northern Territory for the long run. We know how difficult it can be if you are paying rent and bills that come in day-to-day while trying to save a deposit to buy your first home. A stamp duty concession of this amount goes a long way.

We went a bit further than that; we also added the \$10 000 home renovation grant to help people make the decision to take the plunge to buy their home, while also supporting Territory jobs. That grant will support local Territory business and tradies. With over 300 people, that is over \$3m going into the economy across the Northern Territory. This supports local jobs and, most importantly, keeps people in the Northern Territory by helping them build their future and a bit of equity.

As life goes by, and they probably have to buy a bit more, they will be able to get their second home or even their third home. The most important thing is that it will be here in the Northern Territory. We are really proud of the changes we have made; it is great to see the uptake. If you are in the market for your first home, we really encourage you to have a look. There is also a \$26 000 First Home Owner Grant for people who want to build new homes as well. There are great choices for people.

**Crown Land Sale**

**Mr WOOD to MINISTER for INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING and LOGISTICS**

Your department recently announced the sale of Crown land section 740300 of Bagot, opposite Robertson Barracks, to the Commonwealth. Could you say what the details of the sale were? Was it a land swap or

was there cash? Does this mean any of the roads bordering that land, such as Thorngate and Taylor Roads, are included in the sale and will be closed to the public?

**ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, Thorngate and Taylor Roads will not be closed. In December 2013 the Commonwealth formally sought acquisition of section 740300 of Bagot Crown land adjacent to Robertson Barracks for Defence training purposes. The land is referred to as the closed training area. It has been used by Defence for a very long time.

The land is zoned for community purpose and conservation. Historically the site has been used for quarrying activities, and is currently being used for training grounds by the Department of Defence under a permissive occupancy. On 4 August 2016 a determination pursuant to section 12(3) of the *Crowns Land Act* was made by the then Minister for Lands and Planning to grant freehold land to the Commonwealth.

I appreciate it was closed to caretaker mode, but they have been in training for some time. The purpose of using this land for Defence training has been around for a long time, so I saw it as quite a legitimate process. On 7 August 2016 the Territory made an offer over the land to the Commonwealth, which was accepted on 5 October 2016. On 28 September 2016 a notice of determination was published in the NT Government *Gazette*, and on 25 January 2017 a contract of sale of the land, subject to the terms and conditions, was executed by the Territory and the Commonwealth.

Settlement conditions require an existing haul road within the site to be relocated outside the land. This is under way and expected to be completed by the end of April. Engagement with the Extractive Industry Association has been undertaken throughout the process because they are big users of that area and are very important stakeholders; we need building materials to support construction in the Territory.

Private landowners who informally use tracks within the land as alternate access to their properties have an alternate track through Willard Road available to them. Letters advising of the sale have been sent to the landowners to ensure they are informed. Settlement of the land is expected to occur by the end of the financial year, once all the conditions of the contractor sale are met by the Commonwealth and the Northern Territory.

This was a process that was well and truly entrained prior to the change of government. There is historic usage by the Department of Defence, and it is important that we support them when we can, when it comes to Defence training and activities.

**Mr WOOD:** A point of order, Madam Speaker! Part of the question was the details of the sale. Are they open for the public?

**Mrs MANISON:** I will take that question on notice, Member for Nelson, and will get you what details I can. I will take that away to get you some more details because I do not have them at hand.

**Verdant Minerals Ltd – Ammaroo Station**

**Mr KIRBY to MINISTER for PRIMARY INDUSTRY and RESOURCES**

Last week a project facilitation agreement was signed with Verdant Minerals Ltd in relation to their phosphate project on Ammaroo Station. The agreement reinforces this project's major project status. Can you update the House on how this project will create jobs, and how it is fulfilling this government's commitment to developing Tennant Creek as a mining services centre?

**ANSWER**

This government is focused on unlocking employment opportunities for all Territorians. A major provider of these opportunities is the resources we have in the Northern Territory. We are fortunate to have significant resources available of minerals and metals which are used in high-end manufacturing and clean energy production.

We are very proud and lucky to have a large phosphate deposit, which has the potential to make the Territory a major source of fertiliser commodities. Last week the Chief Minister and I joined Verdant Minerals to sign a project facilitation agreement for the Ammaroo phosphate project. Located 180 kilometres southeast of Tennant Creek, this project plans to produce up to two million tonnes of phosphate

rock concentrate per annum for export to the Asian market, for an estimated production life of 20 years, with the potential for 100 years.

The project has potential to create 300 jobs during construction phase, and 160 direct jobs once it is operational. The capital expenditure for this project has been identified as being between \$500m and \$1.8bn. The mineral being mined in this project is phosphate, which is a key component for agriculture fertilisers, amongst other things.

As the Minister for Primary Industry, I can tell you that fertiliser is some serious business. Phosphate is essential for efficient agriculture. There are no substitutions. They are critical components of the global food supply value chain. This government has a plan for Tennant Creek and the Barkly region. We are working hard to develop Tennant Creek as the mining hub of the Territory.

As a vital regional centre, we want to see Tennant Creek prosper. We want to see industry grown jobs created in the Tennant Creek region. Projects like this will be essential players in ensuring the growth of that region. We are well aware that seriously competing in a global environment for investment, especially in the resource sector—we have the commodities, contacts and the experience to ensure projects like this will help attract that investment dollar to the Territory. This means more projects like this getting off the ground and more jobs for Territorians.

We will continue to work hard to facilitate and attract investment in major projects to the Northern Territory to create jobs for Territorians.

### **Alice Springs Law and Order Policy**

#### **Mrs LAMBLEY to CHIEF MINISTER**

In January you tried to close the front counter of the Alice Springs police station from 7 pm to 7 am, seven days a week. It was a monumental flop, and you were forced to backflip. This week we hear that your only law and order policy going into the 2016 election for Alice Springs, the rollout of night time youth services, has no plan or time frame. As the first leader of law and order in our community, you need to take full responsibility for these poor decisions. What is your law and order policy for Alice Springs?

#### **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I thank the Member for Araluen for her question. It might help clear up a few things.

In no way did I make that decision on the Alice Springs police station. I made it clear to police that I did not support or agree with that decision. It was an operational decision by police. It was not a decision of this government. I made it clear at the time that it was an error. I think it is important to make that clear, and I thought it was, but the Member for Araluen was not aware that I disagreed with it. I respect the right of the police to make an operational decision, but that was not one that I supported as Minister for Police or as Chief Minister. It has since been fixed.

We have identified the importance of providing certainty to police, which was missing during the four years of CLP government. The CLP made a clear election commitment in 2012 for an extra 120 police officers, and it did not deliver on that. I provided the Police Commissioner with certainty of a recruitment plan for police in the Northern Territory, which will see extra police in Alice Springs. That includes detectives, who will be part of the team of police identifying potential youth offenders before they commit crime. That is a very important investment in Alice Springs.

We also have the 16 youth workers, which the Minister for Territory Families has spoken about, who are based in Alice Springs and doing the hard work of preventing crime before it occurs. I met with the Minister for Territory Families and a group of people who are very concerned about antisocial behaviour and crime in Alice Springs. They were very informative for the policy we are developing to tackle crime before it occurs, which is really important not only for Alice Springs but for people across the Northern Territory.

We have 54 youth workers and the A-team of police. There is certainty for an extra 120 police officers. Alice Springs will be the location for one of the initial phases for trialling the electronic monitoring bracelets for youth and adults, which is important.

There is a very clear focus on Alice Springs. We have a lot of sympathy for the stress people experience in Alice Springs, and across the Northern Territory, when it comes to crime. There is a sense of vulnerability

when you become a victim. We want to make sure victims come first. We have put forward strong policies on law and order to ensure victims across the Northern Territory have their voices heard and are part of our policies. That is why we have strong policies for Alice Springs.

I can give you my guarantee, as Chief Minister and Minister for Police, that we have strong law and order policies for Alice Springs.

### **INPEX Workers – Re-employment Support**

#### **Mr KIRBY to CHIEF MINISTER**

Can you please update the House on the actions the government is taking to support re-employment of the Territorians who were laid off yesterday as a result of the contractual dispute at the INPEX project?

#### **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, it is crucial that we have certainty when it comes to jobs and the Ichthys project. That project has been very good to the Northern Territory by driving investment and jobs here.

A commercial dispute is happening right now, which led to 800 people being stood down. I have spoken directly to the companies and said we need certainty for the Northern Territory and this project, and this needs to be sorted as soon as possible. Everyone involved said they will prioritise locals. They understand the importance of this to the Northern Territory. We need certainty for the people who currently do not have it. This is not just about the project or the Territory; it is about the people who were going to work one day and cannot go to work today.

All the companies have committed to locals. Laing O'Rourke is looking for opportunities that exist right now in other sites for deployment, so they can try to make sure locals have jobs. The project itself, JKC, is focused on certainty of completion.

The best placed people to finish the job are those who are working on it. Whether it is with Laing O'Rourke or another contractor, the best placed people to finish the work are the ones currently on site. They know where they put their tools down and how to pick them back up and go back to work.

Locals need to be prioritised, and they are the ones who are best placed to finish this work. I sent a strong message to the companies involved that we have to make sure we are thinking about locals. It is not just in the best interests of the Territory or the people who want to put food on the table, but it is in the best interests of the project.

It is not just about the technical skills; it is about the corporate knowledge of where the project is at and how to finish that work. Locals need to go back to work on this project. That message has been sent very clearly to the companies involved. Let us get this sorted ASAP. This is important for the certainty of the Territory and the project. This is a crucial project for the Territory. Let us get it done. Let us get the gas ship to Japan and deliver on this project. Let us get the locals back to work. They went to work and were ready to work; let us get them back to work. That is what is in the best interests of the Territory, the companies involved and the project.

### **Liquor Retailing – Floor-Space Regulations**

#### **Mrs FINOCCHIARO to ATTORNEY-GENERAL and JUSTICE**

A figure closely associated with the AHA donated \$50 000 to the Labor Party. Later, you, as Attorney-General, authorised the drafting of the Dan ban regulations that would cap the floor space of liquor retailing outlets at 400m<sup>2</sup>. Were you aware of the \$50 000 donation when you authorised the drafting of these regulations?

#### **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, the short answer is no. I was not aware of that donation. Donations are handled by the party. We do not make policy based on donations. We make policy based on good evidence and what is best for Territorians.

I will point out a further inaccuracy with the Deputy Leader of the Opposition's question. Dan Murphy's is welcome in the Northern Territory, but it needs to abide by the conditions we have in place. Alcohol is one of the biggest social issues we face in the Northern Territory. The cost to our community, both economic and social, is huge. We see it every day in our communities. We are here debating crime, antisocial behaviour and law and order; most of it comes back to the abuse of alcohol. We need to ensure we have evidence-based policy that puts Territorians and community safety first.

As a government, we have announced a review of alcohol policies encompassing licensing and health, and bringing industry to the table. It is a robust review, and we are encouraging Territorians to be part of the terms of reference. I announced the draft terms of reference last week, and we are very much looking forward to the community's feedback. If we get the terms of reference and get this review right, we have a real opportunity to have sound, evidence-based policy on alcohol.

We want Territorians to have choice, to have access to different beverages, but we need to make sure we protect the community. When we talk to doctors, health workers and police, we find that people are sick and tired of the abuse of alcohol and its negative effects on our community.

No, I am not aware of what donations are made and when they are made. I can assure the community that we base policy on evidence and listening to the community, not on political donations. While we are talking about donations, I look forward to this government reviewing political donations and introducing an independent commission against corruption.

After the last four years, Territorians have been left with questions. When the former Treasurer made comments like 'cash opens doors to meetings', it is no wonder Territorians lost trust in their government. This government is restoring trust so Territorians know there are policies based on good evidence for community safety. They will also have confidence in the mechanisms we put in place regarding political donations.

### **Strategic Indigenous Water Reserves**

#### **Mr PAECH to MINISTER for ENVIRONMENT and NATURAL RESOURCES**

Water is an important asset for community members in my electorate, particularly in providing economic benefit for community on country. Can the minister please provide me with an update on the progress of reinstalling the strategic Indigenous water reserves so communities can access water for economic development outcomes on country?

#### **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I thank the Member for Namatjira for this really important question. I know it is incredibly important to him and his electorate. He has been with me in a briefing on this subject.

It is important to all members, particularly those who represent more remote electorates. We understand water is a really precious, finite resource we have to manage and allocate. We need to bring back the community voice and scientific evidence to water policies. This is why we went to the election with a sustainable water use policy. A lot of trust has been lost over the last four years regarding water policy.

Across the Northern Territory, from larger centres to remote centres, we need to manage and allocate water resources so we have ongoing healthy waterways to provide households, businesses and industries with the water they need. This is what we are working towards.

Under the former government there was a lack of process and transparency when it came to water allocation and policy. We are reinstating the strategic Indigenous reserves scrapped under the previous government to ensure resources within a water allocation plan are set aside for future development by local Indigenous communities. Strategic Indigenous reserves offer potential opportunities to traditional owners for future economic development and job creation on country.

These things are incredibly important to us as a government. It enables Aboriginals to negotiate with third parties to provide them with temporary and conditional access to a portion of the strategic Indigenous reserve. It will require the free prior and informed consent of Aboriginal landholders. A strategic Indigenous reserves discussion paper and consultation survey has been developed, and consultations are under way.



I thank the members of the public service working in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. They have been working hard on this. The consultation will include industry groups, land councils and water advisory committees, which are meeting regularly across the Territory. The discussion papers are publically available on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources website. The discussion paper seeks feedback across a range of areas, including methodology, the means of allocation to Aboriginal land owners and the allocation of strategic Indigenous reserves being applied prior to finalising existing licencing applications. Stakeholder briefings are continuing throughout March with feedback due by 13 April.

I look forward to seeing the final proposed model, and keeping the House informed on this important area of policy.

#### **Delia Lawrie – Court Costs**

##### **Mrs FINOCCHIARO to ATTORNEY-GENERAL and JUSTICE referred to CHIEF MINISTER**

On 1 December last year I asked the Chief Minister if the former Member for Karama, his predecessor as leader of the Labor Party and represented by the new Member for Fong Lim, had been pursued for costs after the Northern Territory court of appeal dismissed the challenge to Justice Southwood's decision. The Chief Minister took the question on notice and undertook to respond to me. He still has not done so. Attorney-General have you instructed the Solicitor for the Northern Territory not to pursue Delia Lawrie for costs? If not, will she be pursued?

##### **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, the question would probably best be directed to the Chief Minister. I understand this inquiry and the associated matters sit within the Department of the Chief Minister. As the Attorney-General I work with the Solicitor-General for the Northern Territory, and, as I understand, the answer is not yet.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Chief Minister, do you wish to reply?

**Mr GUNNER (Chief Minister):** Madam Speaker, I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for the question. We are still waiting on independent legal advice. No decision or direction has been made.

#### **Youth Detention – Corrections Officers**

##### **Mr SIEVERS to MINISTER for TERRITORY FAMILIES**

The government has promised to reduce the cycle of crime by improving the way the youth detention centre operates. Critical to this is a need for skilled workers who are properly valued and supported. Can you outline what has been achieved so far in this area?

##### **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I value the support of the as assistant minister for men's policy. The Member for Brennan and I have spoken about this a lot, with his background as a corrections officer.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the adult correctional officers who supported Territory Families through the transition from the office of corrections into Territory Families. The bottom line is we inherited a very mixed workforce in which some adult correctional officers were providing youth justice services. We have now ensured there are specialist youth justice officers who are providing services on day-to-day supervision of young people when they are in detention. We see this as specialist work.

To get the best outcomes from a child's time in detention we need to ensure we have specialist workers with specialist skills in a range of programs focused on rehabilitation and education. This will ensure that when a child leaves detention they are then on a pathway to not reoffend. As the Members for Brennan and Drysdale heard in the meetings in Palmerston, people have been clear that they want to stop kids reoffending. This is an important way forward. We are ensuring we have a skilled workforce that is able to deal with the complexities.

We need to not be polyamorous about this. We have some very challenging young people who have complex needs as well as challenging offending behaviour, and we need skilled people to be working with them. It was great to and meet the Darwin contingent of the 25 new workers. There are also some Alice

Springs workers joining them next week. They are doing a practical component on the actual sites of Don Dale and Alice Springs, which is why there is a week difference between those two cohorts meeting. They will be graduating together at the end of April.

I am very pleased that we have looked at diversity in this workforce. We know that in all emergency and correctional services a diverse workforce means a more balanced and responsive workforce that is able to meet a wide range of needs. We have a wide range of young people going through the detention service, and this enables us to respond differently.

We have 11 female officers, and 12 have Indigenous backgrounds. I am so proud to have met them this week. I look forward to seeing them on my regular visits to the detention centres. Thank you for this very important question.

### **Gas Pipeline from Mt Isa to Tennant Creek**

**Mr WOOD to MINISTER for PRIMARY INDUSTRY and RESOURCES referred to CHIEF MINISTER**

There is a dispute among some traditional landowners and land councils regarding the gas pipeline from Mt Isa to Tennant Creek. Does this mean the project is in jeopardy? As this dispute appears to now be about stopping gas sourced using hydraulic fracturing, are any anti-fracking groups now also involved in this dispute in an attempt to stop the project?

### **ANSWER**

I can give the House an update as to where we are at with it all. There has been some recent media regarding the project and traditional owners. I inform the House that Jemena is going through the process. As the minister responsible for signing off on the potential pipeline—it needs to go through a number of avenues and processes.

One of the processes that already happened is that it went to the NT EPA for the environmental impact study—NT EPA assessment report 79. Then it went to the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources, and now it is with me. There was a holdup on a number of avenues, particularly with the federal *Environmental Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act*, which the feds have to sign off on. That was done last week. I am advised that between the NT EPA and Commonwealth environment assessments there does not seem to be any major differences. I am sure the proponent will shortly be seeking approval through me for the pipeline licence.

It is an important project for the Territory. We are talking about 900 jobs for the Territory. We have already seen the proponent open an office in Tennant Creek, and work has been done already in preparation of approval for the pipeline. I am not aware of what the other environmental groups are doing. As the minister responsible I am going through a process and making sure that process is being adhered to ...

**Mr WOOD:** A point of order, Madam Speaker! The question was not about other approvals; it was simply about the dispute between the traditional land owners and the land councils asking if the pipeline was in jeopardy.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Perhaps if you want to have the Chief Minister ...

**Mr VOWLES:** Yes, I will hand over to the Chief Minister for major projects.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Chief Minister, you have about 44 seconds.

**Mr GUNNER (Chief Minister):** The Member for Nelson touched upon a point with the Wakaya and some other groups. The CLC is working on this—which is its statutory responsibility—where land ownership has not been secured yet for the route. That is one reason Jemena is starting from the Mount Isa end. There has been no delay to construction; it is more of a change to the work order while they come to an arrangement between the CLC, Jemena and the traditional land owners for the route they want to pursue. There may be a need for an alternate route if that access cannot be sorted with those land owners.

I cannot speak on behalf of the environment groups involved. I can only speak on behalf of the Northern Territory Government and our relationships with the CLC, Jemena, EPA and others, to provide confidence and certainty for the project. I can guarantee no shortcuts ...

**Madam SPEAKER:** Minister, your time has expired.

### **Sports – Women's Participation**

**Mr COSTA to MINISTER for TOURISM and CULTURE**

What is the government doing to support more Territory women and girls to participate in sport?

#### **ANSWER**

The Member for Arafura has some very talented young sportswomen in his electorate, and he is an avid supporter of women in sport, as many of us are. It is a really exciting time for women in sport. The government is proud to play as big a role as it can in supporting them in the Territory. We are the first government to understand the need to invest in infrastructure and sporting programs to support more women and girls to participate in sport in the Territory.

The sporting codes are working really hard to keep up with the incredible demand for women's sport in the Territory, and that is a great problem to have. I am proud to say that, as a government, we have planned ahead, and we are investing to help codes cope with the pace of growth in female participation. We are investing \$3m into upgrading and maintaining female friendly facilities in the Marrara Sporting Complex.

The entire Northern Territory sporting community has also been closely following the exciting AFL Women's League. I was delighted to see you, Madam Speaker, joining many other members of the Chamber at the game last Saturday. There was an incredible crowd at TIO, and a great atmosphere. The result did not go our way, but the Crows, particularly the Territory players, fought to the final siren on their home turf. It was incredible. We were showcased on a national stage, which was really exciting. There was an incredible sunset, and the pictures are amazing.

We have believed in the Crows concept from the outset, and the Chief Minister is a big fan. We were there with our Crows hats on. We have invested over \$400 000 into the concept over the next two years, doubling what the previous government was willing to invest.

The Northern Territory flag proudly adorns the playing guernsey, and it is fantastic to see the NT represented in such an exciting league. It is great to see young players on the field when you turn on the TV as well. We have invested in a full-time coach, based in Alice Springs, to work with the wonderful Pink Tails. This ensures Centralians have access to the talent pathway which leads to the AFL's Women's League.

The new indoor stadium for netball will be a real game changer to help produce stars of the future. In Tiwi, football is a religion. The under 18 Tiwi girls were edged out by the Buffettes, but the youth girls were successful. We are pleased to be investing in facilities on the Tiwi Islands to help foster women in sport, and hopefully we will see some Tiwi girls playing in the Adelaide Crows team.

### **Nightcliff Police Station – Reopening**

**Mrs FINOCCHIARO to ATTORNEY-GENERAL and JUSTICE**

Before the election, you promised to reopen the Nightcliff Police Station to the public as a 24/7 facility.

Madam Speaker, I seek leave to table the election flyer which detailed this commitment.

Leave granted.

**Mrs FINOCCHIARO:** In your latest newsletter you claim that you will be reopening the Nightcliff Police Station. Are you walking away from your election commitment for it to be a 24/7 facility? When will the 24/7 police station in Nightcliff be reopened?

#### **ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I love this question. Who shut the Nightcliff Police Station when they promised to make it a 24/7 police station? It was the CLP government. It turned its back on the residents of Coconut Grove, Rapid Creek and Nightcliff. It not only tried to build us an island, but it shut our police station. We have seen antisocial behaviour and crime, and the previous government walked away.

I am excited to be re-elected as the Member for Nightcliff, and to be talking directly to the Police Commissioner about the police station, which is open, and how we can drive that police station to best serve our local community. Last week I had my most recent meeting with the Police Commissioner and other operational police staff. The Police minister has been supporting me in what is the best approach for delivering policing resources for the Nightcliff community.

Anyone who has visited Nightcliff knows there are large open spaces, the beautiful foreshore precinct and it is close to the airport and the hospital. For many years we have had issues of antisocial behaviour. We need to have police resources that support our community. It was the CLP government that turned its back on our community. It promised us a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week police station. And what did they do? They shut our police station.

I am proud to be part of a government that is working with the community ...

**Mrs FINOCCHIARO:** A point of order, Madam Speaker! I do not know if you could hear me over the tirade from the Attorney-General ...

**Madam SPEAKER:** It was difficult.

**Mrs FINOCCHIARO:** Standing Order 110: relevance. Just confirming it will not be a 24/7 police station?

**Ms FYLES:** I am confirming that there will be a 24/7 police station. We have a police station currently operating. We had the mobile police station. Thanks to the Police minister and his commitment to training as many recruits through the police academy as possible, my community will benefit from more police resources on the front line, as will other Territory communities.

It is incredibly cheeky of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to question us about police resources. When they were in government they cut police resources, did not provide the 120 extra police they promised, shut the police station and turned their backs on communities across the Territory.

We have seen extra police resources across the Northern Territory. My community is benefiting. I spoke to police this morning about the mobile CCTV cameras—something this government is committed to—and working with communities to help tackle these issues. I look forward to continuing to work with the Police Commissioner on the community safety needs of my community. The government will continue to work with all Territorians to improve community safety and ensure police have the resources they need to do their jobs.

### **Education for Territory Children**

**Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION**

There are some in this place who seemingly do not want to hear about education, but I would like to know why the government is so determined to give Territory kids a world-class education ...

**Members** interjecting.

**Ms FYLES:** A point of order, Madam Speaker! Standing Order 37: interruption. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition has just interjected that has she heard enough about education over the last two days, but I would like to hear the question and the response.

**Mrs FINOCCHIARO:** A point of order, Madam Speaker! I have been misquoted by the Attorney-General.

**Madam SPEAKER:** No, it is not a point of order. Member for Fong Lim, you have the call. Could you start again, please? Start the clock again so he can ask the question.

**Mr COLLINS:** As I noted before, there are some in this place who seemingly do not want to hear about education, but I would like to know why the government is so determined to give Territory kids a world-class education. How is the government's investment rolling out across the Territory? Is the minister aware of any other approaches and views in this policy area?

## ANSWER

Madam Speaker, I know the Member for Fong Lim is very interested in education, and he has a great school in his electorate. I give no apologies for standing up here and talking, talking and talking about education and the value of education.

Our government wants every child in the Territory to get the best education they can possibly have. We will unashamedly invest in education. We are delivering on that \$20m to schools to give them the opportunity to recruit more teachers and support staff, and to put those dollars into where they are most needed. There is also \$8m for kids with disabilities and challenging behaviours, as well as \$2m for the Healthy Creative Life Program. Those are the top level dollars we are investing in education.

I have been disappointed to hear the Member for Spillet show such a disinterest in the education portfolio over the last few days.

**Mrs FINOCCHIARO:** A point of order, Madam Speaker! Offensive. The member is trying to portray that I do not care about education, but I actually contributed to her statement.

**Madam SPEAKER:** That is not a point of order. Minister, you have the call.

**Ms LAWLER:** I will pick up on that interjection. During Question Time on Tuesday you tried to shut down the questions being asked about education. Then there was your response to our statement, which again continued the CLP's disinterest in education. Your response did not give any suggestions or ideas ...

**Mrs FINOCCHIARO:** I asked you to table your notes. Shame on you for misleading.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Minister, please pause. Withdraw that comment about misleading, Member for Spillet.

**Mrs FINOCCHIARO:** I withdraw 'misleading'.

**Ms LAWLER:** I heard some wonderful suggestions from the Member for Nhulunbuy about things he is passionate about, such as bilingual education and his schools having autonomy. I heard great things from the Member for Blain and the things that interest him. He talked about the good programs in his schools, such as FaFT, and his interest in the Indonesian exchange program.

I did not hear anything at all from the Member for Spillet except criticism. When I got to my office I saw this media release, which says, 'We resume the ministerial statement on education,' as if it was not important. I am concerned about that, Member for Spillet. It is not just about having Facebook photos taken with kids in the gallery. There needs to be a deeper understanding of and a deeper commitment to education from your side.

I am sure Durack school, which is in the House today, is very happy to get the \$100m, as well as the \$300 000 for infrastructure and the \$100 000 extra for teachers. We need to be able to work together on education and have a CLP that is interested in education. As a new opposition, be interested in education rather than criticising and ignoring it.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Minister, your time has expired.

## Criminal Damage to Businesses

### Mr WOOD to CHIEF MINISTER

A lot of businesses have suffered damage caused by criminals, such as damage to doors, windows and equipment. This has to be repaired and paid for either directly or through insurance and subsequent higher premiums. Will the government consider making the criminals pay for the damage? Or will the government look at extending the victims of crime scheme, the tradies scheme or something else, so that businesses are not out of pocket and can continue operating instead of packing up and leaving the Territory? Is that not something practical that the government should be doing?

**ANSWER**

There has been a significant impact in recent times on commercial premises, which is not to downplay the impact on residential ones, but there has been a focus on businesses across the Territory. Were you talking about the Territory or Darwin, Member for Nelson?

**Mr WOOD:** Darwin.

**Mr GUNNER:** Winnellie, Berrimah and Coconut Grove have had a degree of attention, but that is not to say that other parts of the NT have not had attention too. There is a significant impost on business, which we recognise.

There have been conversations with businesses in Alice Springs which had a repeated series of break-ins. It is difficult to balance the need to repair the premise with finding money to put into security upgrades to prevent reoffending or catch people who reoffend, such as through CCTV cameras. There is an impact on insurance premiums too.

We are aware of that issue. There is assistance available for victims of property crime. That is managed through the Attorney-General's area, the victims of crime funds. We understand these issues. We have sympathy for the businesses involved.

Police provide advice through crime prevention and environmental design about what is the right investment for a business to make. Sometimes money can be spent in the wrong areas. I know at least two premises, one top and one south, where the cameras were pointed in the wrong direction or placed in the wrong location. Crime prevention (inaudible) can work though to make sure you target it in the right way.

There has been \$450 000 put towards victims of crime conferencing to ensure victims' voices are being heard through the process. The government needs to consider the best place for tax money to be spent versus genuine commercial interest. I respect and recognise the pressure placed on businesses being targeted. There is some capacity through police to make sure they get the correct advice to invest in their business.

Council has similar services for crime prevention through environmental design. They ensure businesses receive correct advice on how to invest in their premises to ensure it is as safe and secure as it can be.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Chief Minister, your time has expired.

**Jobs for Indigenous Territorians**

**Ms UIBO to MINISTER for PRIMARY INDUSTRY and RESOURCES**

Jobs are one of this government's key focuses. Improving Indigenous employment rates is a particular focus of this government as it seeks to achieve the national target to close the gap between non-Indigenous and Indigenous Australians. Primary industry is one such sector that provides significant employment opportunities for Indigenous Australians. What opportunities for jobs are opening up for Indigenous Territorians in the primary industry sector?

**ANSWER**

Madam Speaker, I thank the Member for Arnhem, who is doing an excellent job representing her people as assistant minister. I also thank my co-chair for the Indigenous subcommittee, the Member for Namatjira. We are doing great things.

People are saying, 'Kenny, what are you doing as the minister for Primary Industry?' Straight away I say, 'I am trying to write a new book, but I have to start chapter by chapter'. I am trying to create jobs and employment pathways for Indigenous Territorians. We focused on working with industry to develop programs for Indigenous Territorians and support the pathways to jobs for Indigenous people.

I am pleased to say my department has reached 7.9% employment of Indigenous people; however, that is not good enough, so we will get better. I urge all ministers and departments to raise the percentage of Indigenous employees. We have nine trainees, and four of them are in regional areas in the apprenticeship program. We have five trainees who have already graduated from the Indigenous Employment Program.

A revamped Aboriginal coastal licence is now available. Nineteen licences have already been issued to date. That will assist Indigenous coastal communities in providing jobs and supplying local, fresh seafood.

How does this relate to Aboriginal employment in our communities? The Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation, in the Member for Arafura's electorate at Maningrida, is using its Aboriginal coastal licence to sell approximately 70 kilograms of fish every week to local people. That means local jobs and training that create economic opportunities for Aboriginal people in those regions.

I table these ripper pictures of selling and catching the fish. That is not where we finish; with 45 seconds to go I want to tell you another ripper outcome we have. The Northern Territory Government has a 12-month contract with Charles Darwin University to support the trial rock oyster project. We have an Indigenous technician running that, who was previously an NT Government apprentice.

That is what we want to hear. That is a successful outcome from a government program and policy of government. This is our job, and I am very proud to say that. We also have the marine Indigenous rangers doing a tremendous job, and the cattle industry doing an outstanding job. There are two Indigenous cattlemen's workshops with over 50 participants. We are improving the rate of Indigenous employees in the public service, and we all need to be focused on that.

**Ms FYLES (Leader of Government Business):** Madam Speaker, I ask that further questions be placed on the Written Question Paper.