

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Lambley to the Treasurer:

Northern Territory Investment

In October 2018 the NT government scrapped the Infrastructure Development Fund and told the media that this involved the diversion of half of the allocated \$185 million to help finance shovel-ready “economic transformation projects”.

On 15 June 2021, Deputy Chief Minister Nicole Manison announced the NT Government’s decision that \$92.5 million will be invested immediately in new job creating, stimulus projects. The rest of the money will go towards paying down the Northern Territories’ debt.

The NT Government said that the funds will kick start “a number of major projects on the books” including the following projects:

- The Equatorial space launch project in Arnhem Land;
- The East Arm shiplift facility;
- A privately-operated waterpark;
- The Kakadu masterplan;
- A \$100 million Darwin-based lithium ion battery “gigafactory”; and
- The expansion of the Humpty Doo barramundi farm.

1. Please provide an update on these projects.

ANSWER

In October 2018 Government announced \$92.5million will be invested in new Local Jobs Fund and a Digital Partnership grants program to support local technology-focussed innovations with growth potential, to create jobs and diversify the economy. It’s about backing businesses that are having a go, businesses that want to invest here, make things here and create jobs here.

The 2021 Budget turns the Local Jobs Fund into a local jobs jackpot with a funding injection of \$120 million over two years, to help expand our growth base, add value to our economy, and add new skills to our workforce.

Over a 5-year horizon current LJF funded projects will contribute almost \$150 million to the growth of the economy. This impact will increase as funding flows to the next tranche of approved projects.