

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Maley to the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics:

Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct

- 1. After all the time, work and dollars invested into the creation of the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct (MASDP) why are two major projects proponents now deciding not to locate their developments at this site?**

TNG has made a decision to consolidate and integrate its mining and advanced processing operation at its Mount Peake mine site.

Sun Cable notified of plans to reroute the project's overhead transmission lines to Gunn Point instead of Middle Arm. Sun Cable advised that this was a decision to support design simplicity, noting the competing interests in Darwin Harbour.

- 2. How much has been spent on MASDP so far?**

As at the end of October 2021, the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics has expended \$2.4 million on studies and investigations into the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct.

- 3. How many projects have chosen to locate at MASDP?**

The Santos-led Darwin liquefied natural gas (LNG), INPEX-led Ichthys LNG, BOC Helium plant, Channel Island and Weddell Power Stations are currently located on Middle Arm. Santos and INPEX have the collective capability to establish an additional five LNG trains.

A number of proponents have identified Middle Arm as a potential or preferred location for their projects. Projects are at various stages of the project development lifecycle, for example concept phase (e.g. green hydrogen proponents), completion of a scoping study (e.g., Core Lithium), raising capital and working towards commencement of front-end engineering and design (e.g. Darwin Clean Energy).

- 4. How are they chosen and when will they commence construction?**

Projects that meet the strategic objectives of the MADSP will be preferenced for land lots as they become available. Enabling land and marine infrastructure development works is currently anticipated to commence from 2024.

- 5. Is there a plan to facilitate projects at the MASDP?**

As part of the efforts to commercially activate the MADSP, the Investment Territory and Gas Taskforce units of the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet actively work with prospective proponents to facilitate the development of their projects, to facilitate private investment to create jobs. This includes

proactive efforts to generate investor interest in the opportunities to invest at the MADSP.

The current gas availability and further potential gas and Carbon Capture at Middle Arm, provides a real pathway forward to develop the MADSP beyond LNG to lower emissions and renewable energy, and gas and minerals based manufacturing.

6. How many DIPL staff are currently working specifically on the MASDP, what are their levels and how much is the operational budget for this unit including salaries?

Currently there is 5 DIPL personnel working on the planning of the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct. The operational and personnel budget for these positions is \$969 370.