

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

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

Infrastructure Delivery in the Barkly

1. Four years ago a total sum of \$2.95 million was committed to the Tennant Creek Streetscape Project.

a) How much money has been spent on the project so far and on what?

b) Given the people of Tennant Creek have been waiting now for nearly four years, can you please advise the reasons for the delay and the date for when this project will be completed?

c) Has there been any public consultation to date?

Following project scoping and public consultation led by the Barkly Regional Council and the Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade in 2019 and 2020, a design tender was awarded by DIPL to Susan Dugdale and Associates in March 2021. The design project included additional community engagement, which took place in September-October 2021.

The detailed design is complete, with construction tenders expected to be released late 2022.

2. The town drains in Tennant Creek are in a state of disrepair including the main drains that need to be rebuilt and lined. When will this be attended to?

A multi-year work program to improve functionality of the Tennant Creek drains is planned to commence in 2023.

3. The Alekarenge School and the Mungkarta School are badly in need of major upgrade. How much money is being allocated this year to upgrades at both schools and what will the infrastructure upgrades consist of?

In 2021-22, Alekarenge School received an infrastructure investment of \$1.579 million, which saw the delivery of three new classrooms as part of the COVID-19 Stimulus Transportable Classroom project. A \$452 000 contract to design further upgrades to Alekarenge School was awarded to Mode Design Corp Pty Ltd in June 2022. This project is included in the NT Infrastructure Plan and Pipeline 2022 for an estimated construction investment of \$7 million in to the 0 – 5 year timeframe.

The Mungkarta Homeland Learning Centre (HLC) received upgrades in 2018-19, including new fencing, crimsafe installation and painting. Further works will be scoped in 2022/23 as part of the Department of Education's 2022-23 Capital Works project to undertake master planning and concept designs for future upgrades to Homeland Learning Centres.

- 4. As part of the Barkly Regional Deal, draft plans for a new Youth Justice Facility were released over two years ago. Has this project been out for tender yet and, if so, when was it released and on what date did it close?**

The construction tender for the new Barkly Youth Justice Facility was awarded to Northern Transportables Pty Ltd on 21 June 2021. Off-site fabrication is well advanced. On site works will commence in the coming months as an Indigenous Land Use Agreement was recently finalised between the Department of Territory Families and the Traditional Owners (through the Central Land Council).

- 5. It is time to replace the Elliott Police Station and build a new police station at Alpururulam to help maintain law and order and improve community safety in the Sandover region. Is there any funding in the budget for these projects?**

A new police complex in Elliott is identified in the NT Infrastructure Plan and Pipeline 2022 for an estimated investment of \$15 million in the 0 – 10 year timeframe.

A new police complex in Alpururulam is identified in the NT Infrastructure Plan and Pipeline 2022 for investment of \$15 million in the 0 – 5 year timeframe.

- 6. Why has the NT Government ignored much needed upgrades required on the Tablelands Highway? When is this upgrade likely to go ahead?**

Over the last five years \$42.1 million has been spent on upgrades on the Tablelands Highway. This includes all bridges and has meant that previous permanent restrictions for bridges on the route have been removed.

A current shoulder upgrade project being delivered by Cairns Industries achieved practical completion in September 2022.

Procurement planning is underway for further upgrades, with a tender anticipated for release in early 2023.

- 7. Why was maintenance reduced for the Wollogorang, Sandover, Elkedra and Murray Downs Roads? When will additional funding be secured to advance the maintenance programs that are necessary?**

There has been no reduction to maintenance funding for the Wollogorang, Sandover, Elkedra and Murray Downs Roads.

- 8. What funding has been committed to upgrade the Wollogorang Road - part of the Savannah Way - particularly the crossings at the Wearyan, Foelsche and Fletcher Rivers, which are often impassable for locals and visitors? What is the timeframe for when the road and the crossings will be upgraded?**

In 2022-23, \$600 000 has been allocated for the Cyclical Maintenance on Wollogorang Road and \$245 000 has been allocated for design of multi-cell culverts for the Foelsche and Wearyan crossings.

Pending funding availability, it is anticipated that the construction of the Foelsche and Wearyan crossings, together with the design for the Fletcher River crossing will commence in the 2023-24 financial year.