

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Business and Innovation:

Marine Infrastructure Nhulunbuy

Please provide details of the project to develop a business-case and project plan for new marine infrastructure in Nhulunbuy?

Please advise if the local community, surrounding communities and homelands will be consulted on this project and be able to give input to the project plan?

Following the 2014 announcement of curtailment of the Rio Tinto refinery, a number of reports were commissioned to identify how the Gove Port can support regional economic development and diversification and job opportunities. The reports concluded that with the right infrastructure and access arrangements, the Gove Port could support the expansion and diversification of a number of industries in East Arnhem, including small and larger scale commercial fishing and marine tourism, as well as improving the efficiency of the existing service/supply chain (e.g. bulk fuel storage or improved freight services) to support other industries such as, forestry and other regional services.

These industries could also potentially support several downstream activities such as fish processing, marine maintenance services and local tourism product development. In preparing the reports, a number of key groups were consulted, including the East Arnhem Economic Development Committeeⁱ, Developing East Arnhem Limited, the Northern Land Council as well as local marine and tourism operators.

It is expected that a high level business case will assess whether there is an opportunity to leverage private sector investment for any new marine infrastructure. The business case is due to be considered by the NT Government in late 2018. NT Government agencies are and will continue to engage with stakeholders to ensure extensive community and industry input to any development and investment at the Gove Port.

ⁱ The Region Economic Development Committee consists of senior representatives of Developing East Arnhem Limited, Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation, Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation, Gumatj Aboriginal Corporation, Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation, East Arnhem Regional Council, East Arnhem Land Tourism Association, Nhulunbuy Corporation Limited, Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation, Regional Development Australia NT, ARDS Aboriginal Corporation (regional communications partner), Rio Tinto, and East Arnhem Chamber of Commerce. The Anindilyakwa Land Council and South32/GEMCO also attend meetings.
