

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Hersey to the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics:

Katherine Flood Mitigation Works

The 2021 NT Government Budget allocated \$10 million for the Katherine North flood mitigation works.

Building tender T20-1669 was awarded on 22 November 2021 to Black Cat Civil Pty Ltd for \$10,316,746.73 (Inc. GST) for the provision of a flood mitigation levee (northern section).

On 22 October 2022, the NT Government announced completion of flood mitigation works in Katherine North.

- 1. Were there any contract variations for the flood mitigation works in Katherine North? If so, what were they and how much did the variations cost?**

Contract variations may occur in projects dependant on a range of circumstances. The flood mitigation works in Katherine North have included irrigation and adapted designs.

- 2. What is the total expenditure for flood mitigation works in Katherine North?**

\$9.8m was paid for the Katherine North flood mitigation works.

Pending further technical work concerning the culverts under the levee, a reserve of just under \$500,000 remains.

- 3. The original design specification showed sections of the Katherine North flood mitigation works to include the construction of levee banks that were 2 metres in height, 15 metres wide, with a bike path on top. This does not appear to have been constructed. What changes were made to the design of the levee and why were these changes made?**

The original design specification for the Katherine North levee includes earth embankment with an average height of 1 metre and a wall embankment with an average height of 1.5 metres.

A 2.5 metre shared path has been constructed on top of the earth embankment in the section from Prior Court to Giles Street (at the northern end of Knotts Crossing Resort) to create a pedestrian link.

The earth embankment design includes batters at a ratio of 1:6 and therefore the embankment at a height of 1 metre is approximately 15 metres in width from edge to edge of embankment.

- 4. The levee design includes concrete barriers, which are situated off-site but are installed when flood warnings are made. Where are these barriers stored, who manages them and what emergency orders are in place for their installation in the case of a flood?**

The levee design includes temporary barriers on First Street, Lindsay Street and Stuart Highway.

The temporary barriers consist of steel H-beam supports that fit into in-situ footings within the road reserve and aluminium slats that form the barrier.

The Department of Infrastructure, Planning & Logistics (DIPL) is responsible for the management and storage of the temporary barriers.

In accordance with the Katherine Local Emergency Management Plan, a contractor is placed on standby when the Katherine River Nitmiluk Centre gauge station reaches 5 metres.

Installation commences when Katherine River Nitmiluk Centre gauge station reaches 5.5 metres.

The installation order covers First Street, Lindsay Street and then Stuart Highway.

- 5. Who is responsible for the ongoing mowing and clearing maintenance of flood mitigation drains? What is the ongoing budgeted cost of this maintenance?**

DIPL is responsible for the section of the drain from the old airstrip Clarke Crescent through to the culvert under Lindsay Street and at the outfall on the southern side of the Stuart Highway.

There is ongoing budget for trunk drain maintenance across Katherine.

- 6. Who maintains and operates the flood warning system (sirens)?**

The Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services operate the flood warning system on advice from the Bureau of Meteorology and the Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security.

- 7. Original plans for the flood mitigation levee showed reticulation and vegetation along the levee for beautification purposes. When will this work be completed and will it come at further cost or is this included in the scope of works already paid to the contractor?**

The original design of the levee includes dryland grassing for the batters of the earth embankment. The establishment of grass along the levee will take some time.

A separate contract for artwork on the wall sections of the levee (behind the Katherine Information Centre and markets) is being managed through the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet.

8. Will the completion of the flood mitigation levee provide residents any insurance premium relief?

Upon completion of the flood mitigation levees (North and South), the mapping for the Q20 flood event will be updated and released.

The data for this mapping will be available to insurance providers to inform their consideration of the reduced flood risk for properties in Katherine North and Katherine South. Insurance providers will make a commercial assessment of the reduced flood risk with regards to insurance premiums for properties in Katherine.

9. An additional \$10 million (\$9.4m in federal funds + \$600K top up from NTG) has been allocated to the Katherine South flood levy project. When will this design and construct tender be released?

Design for the Katherine South levee is complete.

The tender for the construction is anticipated to be released in mid-2023, pending finalisation of consultation with stakeholders regarding cultural heritage.