

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

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

Underground car park

- 1. Exactly whose idea was it to build an underground car park at State Square?**

The University of New South Wales heat study identified that the car parks located at the Supreme Court and around State Square contribute significantly to the urban heat island effect in Darwin CBD.

A detailed mitigation scenario was developed by the report authors for the zone around State Square which involved the removal of the Chan building, the replacement of all car parks in State Square by urban greenery and replacement of existing asphalt and concrete pavements in State Square green area by cool pavements.

This finding was supported by the Darwin City Centre Masterplan released by the City of Darwin in May 2015, which reflects on the need for the replacement of surface grade car parking in the State Square precinct. The masterplan states:

“Parliament House is one of the most important buildings in the Northern Territory. So too is the Supreme Court, yet both of these buildings have a surface parking lot as their forecourt. This is an undignified condition given the importance of these buildings. It is suggested that parking be provided in a secure basement garage, and that the ground level be returned as a formal lawn and tropical garden to reflect the tropical context of these buildings. The result would be a dignified setting for Parliament House and the Supreme

Court in a garden setting, which is more appropriate than a number of parking lots.”

- 2. Please provide the final model of car park users and the financial model to support this.**

Discussions are ongoing with the City of Darwin to determine the most appropriate operating model for the carpark.

- 3. Given 85 car parks are allocated for staff within Parliament House currently, will they be provided free parking in the new underground car park?**

It is intended that the car park will be a mixed use of private and public parking, noting that the underground car park is replacing a number of existing allocated car parks including the jurors' car park at the Supreme Court and the Parliament House staff car park. Once an operating model is established, agencies will be consulted with regard to the ongoing allocation of carparks to public servants.