

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Chief Minister:

Nhulunbuy town lease

Please advise on the progress of the negotiations for the Nhulunbuy town lease and the future of the town post mining.

ANSWER:

Rio Tinto currently holds the lease for the township of Nhulunbuy via a Special Purposes Lease which is tied to the minerals leases for the Gove mining operations. These leases are until 2053 or may end earlier if rehabilitation and other requirements are achieved. Rio Tinto has publicly stated its Gove mining operations are not expected to extend beyond 2030.

The Department of the Chief Minister is participating in preliminary discussions with primary stakeholders about the process for addressing the future of the town and related areas on the Gove Peninsula. This will include work to identify in advance the future land tenure and governance over the town and plan for essential services and infrastructure transitions. There will also be a focus on cooperative planning and implementation to support a successful social and economic adjustment to the post mining economy over the medium to long term.