

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**WRITTEN QUESTION**

Mr Maley

to Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

LNG PLANT

1. Given the huge community back lash that is currently occurring in relation to the long-term adverse effects of locating a 10 million tonnes per annum liquefied natural gas plant at this location in the middle of Darwin Harbour, will you guarantee that such a cost benefit analysis is undertaken as a matter of urgency and before any more work is carried out on the Ware (Middle Arm) Peninsula?
2. Will the disposal options for dredged material carried out off Charles Point, and in the Wickham Point turnaround bay, and the plumes of silt created by this process, impact on the unique coral communities adjacent to Channel Island and in the harbour generally
3. Precisely how much damage to sponges, reef, fish breeding grounds and the harbour ocean ecosystem will be caused by the dredging of the route in from Cox Peninsular and of the turnaround bay for ships at the Phillips LNG plant on Wickham Point?
4. Is it true that the 1997 EIS proposed gas pipeline route through a Defence Training Area has been dropped from the Phillips 2001 PER (page 1.8, figure 1.4) without any supporting bathymetric survey data for this newly depicted route that now skirts around that Defence Training Area by up to 25 kilometres?
5. As 12 metre draft tankers must only move during daylight hours when navigating the harbour, how will these ships travel out to the ocean shipping lanes during a midday neap tide in Darwin Harbour? Just where will dredging occur and how often?
6. When the largest mangrove colony in Darwin Harbour is partly bulldozed on the Ware Peninsula road in to Wickham Point, and at the Phillips LNG site, what will be the effect of the large amounts of acid sulphate leached into the waters of Darwin Harbour?
7. What baseline studies have been done to evaluate the environmental effects of implementing a road corridor from Channel Island Road out to Wickham Point? Are any such baseline studies available to the public now?
8. Is it true that the long-term jobs at the Phillips plant will only provide 80 jobs for 17 years for international, interstate and some local employees?
9. When Phillips carries out its initial Hydrotest of the whole system will it use fresh or salt water and how will the Hydrotest water (which will be full of chemical additives) be disposed of?

10. Vast emissions of the global warming gas CO² will be released at 18,000 tonnes per day by the Phillips plant on Wickham Point. Is it true that the EIS, the PER and the Assessment Report 39 all give no real indication of how Phillips will offset these emissions?
11. How many square kilometres of new forest will have to be planted by Phillips to soak up 18,000 tonnes per day of CO². Is Phillips required to plant this much forest in Australia to offset these emissions?
12. Did the atmospheric emissions modelling carried out in the Phillips PER not take into account humidity and precipitation (rain) as Darwin Harbour has a tropical climate with heavy wet season rains and high humidity?
13. Recently the British warship HMS Nottingham holed itself at sea and nearly sank. Is the Minister aware that human error will almost certainly occur in relation to the production and transportation of LNG in Darwin Harbour at some stage, and that ignition of evaporating LNG from a holed tanker ship or LNG tank could cause a severe and fatal giant fireball? What is the probability of that event occurring?

ANSWER