

PASPALLEY

Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory
Public Accounts Committee
c/o Julia Knight
Committee Secretary
GPO Box 3721
Darwin NT 0801
Julia.Knight@nt.gov.au

29 September 2025

Dear Chair,

Public Accounts Committee Inquiry into the Darwin Ship Lift Project

1. I refer to Paspaley's attendance at the hearing of the Public Accounts Committee Inquiry into the Darwin Ship Lift Project (Project) on 17 September 2025 and to the Committee Secretary's email of 22 September 2025.

2. I thank the Committee for the opportunity to provide the following responses to the questions on notice.

Question 1: Could you provide a list of third-party businesses or consultants that have been engaged throughout the process?

3. At the time I took this question on notice, I understood the question to be directed towards ascertaining whether and to what extent Paspaley has contracted third-party businesses or consultants connected to the former executive governments of the Territory with respect to the Project.

4. So far as I am aware, Paspaley has not engaged:

- any third-party businesses or consultants including former parliamentarians or political advisers in relation to the Project; or
- any third-party businesses or consultants for the purpose of providing political strategy or lobbying in relation to the Project.

5. If, contrary to my understanding, the question seeks specific disclosure of each and every third-party business or consultant that has been engaged by Paspaley in connection with the Project, we respectfully consider that it is both unreasonable insofar as it seeks details of those entities and inconsistent with your opening comment to the effect that the hearing was not an inquiry into Paspaley's business.



6. We are also conscious of Paspaley's potential obligations of confidentiality to those third parties and to the possible need to provide some or all of them with prior notice as to the potential public disclosure of their identity as a service provider to Paspaley in connection with this Inquiry.

7. In general terms, however, we can confirm that the third-party businesses or consultants that have been engaged on the Project include:
 - engineering firms;
 - design and construction firms;
 - law firms and counsel; and
 - other professional service providers (but not including the kinds of businesses and consultants described in paragraph 4 above, which have not been engaged).

Question 2: Are you able to provide an overview of the costs that you have incurred in the last 10 years?

8. By way of overview:
 - having now reviewed our records, I reaffirm the answer to this question that I provided during the hearing – that is, Paspaley has incurred millions of dollars of costs and expenses engaging those service providers that we describe in our answer to the first question in the Project; and
 - in addition to those direct costs, needless to say, Paspaley has incurred extensive internal costs in support of the Project over a period of approximately 10 years.

Sincerely,



James Paspaley
Executive Director
Paspaley Pearls Group