



MINISTER FOR LOGISTICS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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Mr Russell Keith
Public Accounts Committee
Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory

Via email: LA.PAC@nt.gov.au

Dear Mr Keith

Thank you for the Committee's report on the Inquiry into the Darwin Ship Lift Facility, tabled on 25 November 2025. The Committee's thorough work in examining this significant project being delivered for the Northern Territory is appreciated.

In February 2026, the CLP Government announced the Northern Marine Complex, inclusive of the Darwin Ship Lift Facility as a Territory Development Area, a first of its kind. As a result the Darwin Ship Lift project is now overseen by the Territory Coordinator, with a Northern Marine Complex Project Control Group in place to ensure additional oversight and rigor to this major project to ensure it is completed not only in line with Parliamentary Account Committee recommendations, but in line with expectations of all Territorians.

In response to the Committee's recommendations, I wish to provide you with an update as to the progress by the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure (the Department), including:

- Construction activity on the ship lift facility has continued as recommended.
- Recommended strict cost controls have been implemented; specifically including any request for variation that would see an increase to the Target Outturn Cost will go to the Treasurer for review and endorsement.
- Access and Pricing legislation is anticipated to be introduced into Parliament in Q3 2026.
- Coordination and implementation of initiatives to address workforce skills shortages that may impact on the capacity of the Ship Lift facility to meet anticipated service demands are being considered and led by the Department of Trade Business and Asian Relations.
- Work is continuing to review the NT Project Development Framework.

The Department, alongside colleagues from the Office of the Territory Coordinator are committed to delivering this major project in line with expectations and recommendations from the Committee. All recommendations as tabled by the Parliamentary Accounts Committee remain at the forefront of decision making as this project progresses.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further information or clarification.

Yours sincerely



BILL YAN

30 APR 2026