

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

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

Various Building and Transport Issues

- 1. You have had 75 investigated complaints about building practitioners finalized. Would you please outline what were the most common complaints and how many of these investigations led to the Building Practitioners Board or the courts?**

The estimated 75 investigated complaints finalised, actually projected to 88 investigated complaints being finalised, which consisted of:

- 17 closed moratorium files for unapproved building works;
- 50 closed compliance files (unapproved building works / disability complaints / unsafe buildings); and
- 21 closed practitioner complaints.

The common denominator for complaints against a building practitioner is breach of section 34S of the *Building Act* which is professional misconduct due to breaches of the *Building Act / Building Regulations*.

The cases sent to the Building Practitioners Board were:

- One building certifier – professional misconduct - Suspension two years – refer <https://bpb.nt.gov.au/practitioners>;
- One building certifier – professional misconduct – Fine – refer <https://bpb.nt.gov.au/practitioners>;
- One plumber – currently before the Building Practitioners Board for professional misconduct; and
- Two builders – currently with the Solicitor for the Northern Territory for referral to the Building Practitioners Board.

2. Why was the “industry briefing” component of the tender to review the Transport Subsidy Scheme removed?

The request for a quote was originally issued with an industry brief requirement by error. There was no requirement for an industry brief to be undertaken and it provided no benefit to the quote process. An addendum was issued to correct the error and enquires were managed through established process.

3. How far along is the review of the impact of the reforms on the delivery of transport services to people living with a disability? Will you release the outcome of that review which we understand is due in July?

With the commencement of rideshare services on 1 February 2018, Government committed to reviewing the impacts of the new regulatory model on the disability sector after six months. While this Department is currently preparing for this review, consultation will commence at the six month mark, being 1 August 2018 and is expected to be finalised by October 2018.

4. I understand there have been delays to the Litchfield Park Road sealing and Lower Finniss Bridge upgrade. What is the budget and timeline now for this project?

As explained during the Estimates hearing, the Litchfield Park Road and Lower Finniss Bridge are subject to two land swap agreements with two land trusts. The Traditional Owner groups provided consent to the agreements in late December 2017 (after approximately 15 years of negotiations). Project Leadership Teams have been set up with the Traditional Owners to ensure that the conditions in the agreements are met. The tender for the project will be released in late 2018.

5. Has the 50 year ferry terminal study been finalised and if so, what were the outcomes?

The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics is currently undertaking a planning study for future ferry services in the Darwin Harbour area. This study will identify and assess the current and potential sites within the Darwin Harbour area that could be used for supporting infrastructure that supports ferry services and allows for integration with other transport modes.

The objective of this planning study is to identify suitable potential sites for future ferry terminals in the Darwin Harbour area that might support future ferry services over the next 50 years based on:

- identifying potential and available sites and undertaking an assessment of these locations in terms of infrastructure requirements;
- consideration of current and possible future user demand (including how selected sites might integrate with the current and future public transport and road networks);
- existing and future infrastructure requirements; and
- prioritisation of the preferred sites based on an assessment of a business case for these options.

As a part of this project, the consultant will undertake community consultation in two stages as follows:

- Stage 1 - To gather information from key stakeholders and the community. This is complete.
- Stage 2 - To advise the community about the priority locations and the reasons.

The draft final report is complete and is currently being reviewed by this Department. The priority sites are expected to be released to the community in August / September 2018.

6. What was the outcome of the review of the taxi operating costs model?

From 2000 to 2012, this Department has made recommendations for taxi fare increases based on the movement in the cost to operate a taxi in the Northern Territory, as estimated by a 'basket of costs' model (the model). After 2012, fare increases were based on movements in the Darwin Consumer Price Index (CPI).

As part of the Ridesharing Steering Committee process, the Taxi Council of the Northern Territory requested that this Department review the model, due to concerns that a number of costs were underrepresented in the basket and that changes in CPI were not aligning with changes in the cost to operate a taxi.

The review of the model was completed by consultants PwC who established a new baseline 2016 Basket of Costs, together with a set of escalators for future cost reviews. PwC concluded that the revised model would be the most comprehensive of all jurisdictions.

The model was used late in 2017 to determine the change in taxi operating costs from 2016 to 2017, which could be used to adjust taxi fares. The modelling found that taxi operators in all regions would see a reduction in annual operating costs, largely due to the reduced annual license fees.

However, industry raised concerns regarding the potential impact on driver wages of simultaneously introducing ridesharing services and decreasing taxi fares, particularly considering that fares had not increased for two years. Government therefore decided to leave fares unchanged and reconsider the issue after the impacts of ridesharing were known.

7. According to the answers you gave us for our Global Questions, you conducted 15 surveys and community engagement projects from the Heavitree Gap Planning Study through to the Planning Reform survey and focus groups. The total cost of all the consultants used across the 15 projects was almost \$475,000. Could you please list the status or outcomes of each consultation project. Who were the consultants?

Project	Vendor	Form	Status
Heavitree Gap Planning Study	SMEC: People Oriented Design	online survey via haveyoursay.nt.gov.au/ information displays at shopping centres and markets/ workshop with Town Camp residents/ design workshops at two local primary schools/ meetings with stakeholders	Ongoing
Future Ferry Planning	Community engagement consultant and sub-consultant to Mott Macdonald: True North Strategic Communications	online survey and poll/ three workshops with stakeholders and community/ meetings with stakeholders/ intercept surveys (face-to-face)	Ongoing
Greening the CBD	DIPL led	Online survey/ info stall	Complete
Cullen Bay Car Parking Strategy	GHD	face to face meetings with stakeholders/ online survey/ intercept surveys (face-to-face with community)	Ongoing

Project	Vendor	Form	Status
Gunn Point Planning Study	Community engagement consultant and sub-consultant to Tonkin True North Strategic Communications	information display in shopping centre/ letterbox drops/ face to face meetings with stakeholders	Complete
Barge Landing Consultation project (19 Feb – 9 May 2018 partially outside of date range)	GHD	community workshops in 14 communities/ face-to-face meetings with stakeholders	Ongoing
Road reserves section 34 (26 June – 31 August 2017 partially outside of date range)	Red Splash	online survey via haveyoursay.nt.gov.au/ information displays at shopping centres and markets/ regional forums were held in four communities across NT/ meetings with stakeholders	Complete
Towards Zero Road Safety Discussion Paper consultation	DIPL led	online survey haveyoursay.nt.gov.au/ community forums/ written submission.	Complete
Road Report Website Launch	DIPL led	Feedback - ongoing	Complete
Expressions of Interest (EOI) for Lot 3017, Town of Katherine.	DIPL Led	Survey via Survey Monkey – seeking feedback from 11 entities (those registered for the EOI process)	Complete

Project	Vendor	Form	Status
Planning Reform – Review, Reframe, Renew	Elton Consulting	Online Survey, Random Telephone Survey, one focus group (6 attendees), four council / industry workshops and nine ‘pop-up’ consultations across the Territory.	Ongoing
Planning for a Vibrant Future	Red Splash	Online survey, hosted on the ‘Have Your Say’ website. Seven Community Workshops.	Ongoing
Central Alice Springs Area Plan – Stage 1 consultation	DIPL Led	Online survey (NTPC website)	Stage 1 - complete
Central Darwin Area Plan – Stage 1 consultation	DIPL Led	Online survey (NTPC website)	Stage 1 - complete
Tennant Creek Entry Statement	DIPL Led	Public display and feedback forums. Tennant Creek Supermarket manned display, Tennant Creek Markets manned display, Facebook display and comment feedback.	Complete