

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs. Finocchiaro to the Minister for Trade and Major Projects

Nhulunbuy Space Base

1. In the Budget 18/19 speech delivered by the Treasurer on 1 May 2018, and in subsequent answers over Budget Week 2018, the Government mentioned the Nhulunbuy space base. Please provide an update on the progress of this project.
2. How likely is it that this project will be realised in this term of Government?
3. How likely is it that this project will be realised in the next decade?
4. Who has the Government spoken to in relation to developing the Space Base in Nhulunbuy?
5. Of those consulted by Government in relation to the Space Base, what are their credentials and professional history?

ANSWERS

1. Equatorial Launch Australia (ELA), the proponent of the Arnhem Space Centre, continues to make progress in terms of statutory approvals and development planning processes.

The 40-year lease to Gumatj Corporation Limited (Gumatj) under section 19 of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (Cth)* was approved in late 2017, by the Northern Land Council and the Australian Government. Gumatj has subleased 61 hectares of this land to ELA for its operations.

ELA and Gumatj are working to finalise the 'Notice of Intent' for consideration by the NT Environmental Protection Authority under the *Environmental Assessment Act*. ELA and Gumatj are also finalising Development Consent Applications under the *Planning Act*. All are expected to be submitted later this year. The proponents also advise that planning continues to progress on design and essential services requirements to enable construction commencement following the necessary regulatory approvals.

ELA is also engaging with Australian Government regulatory bodies, including the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) and the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science which administers the *Activities Act 1998*.

ELA and Gumatj continue to engage strongly with the Australian and international space industry and the newly established Australian Space Agency to promote the benefits of the establishment of the Arnhem Space Centre and more broadly the growth the space industry in Australia.

2. Realisation of the project is dependent on the Australian Government regulatory arrangements.
3. Realisation of the project is dependent on the Australian Government regulatory arrangements.
4. The Northern Territory Government has been supporting ELA with its proposal to build and operate Australia's first commercial space port and more generally the development of the Territory space industry.

The Northern Territory Government has and continues to engage with a wide range of stakeholders, including Australian Government departments including the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science; the Department of Defence; and the Civil Aviation and Safety Authority.

The Northern Territory Government has also engaged with the Northern Land Council, the Gumatj, the East Arnhem Regional Economic Development Committee, Developing East Arnhem Limited, the Space Industry of Australia Association, the newly established Australian Space Agency and NASA.

In addition, the Northern Territory Government has undertaken a broad range of engagements with the Australian Government Departments, Industry Associations, and international space agencies to industry members from primes to start-ups.

5. Please see answer to question 4, additional information regarding these organisations is publically available.