

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Hersey to the Minister for Environment:

Materials Recovery Facility in Katherine

Regarding the announcement on 9 February 2022 of funding a new Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Katherine:

- 1. The announcement of the Katherine Materials Recovery Facility states that “the two governments will invest \$11 million”. How much of the funding is being contributed by the Northern Territory Government?**

\$5.5 million.

- 2. What is the expected annual maintenance and operational cost of the Katherine Materials Recovery Facility? Will the Northern Territory Government be funding this?**

Stages 1 and 2 of the construction of the MRF will comprise a needs analysis and feasibility study. Subject to those studies, the MRF will be appropriately designed. The annual maintenance and operational costs will be considered through this process.

- 3. Where will the proposed Katherine Materials Recovery Facility be located?**

A site within the Katherine Agribusiness and Logistics Hub has been identified. The suitability of this site will be considered as part of stages 1 and 2 of the MRF.

- 4. When will construction of the Katherine Materials Recovery Facility commence and when will it be operational?**

Planning for the project has commenced, with construction aiming to be completed in mid 2024.

- 5. Please detail what consultation has been undertaken regarding the Katherine Materials Recovery Facility, including when it was undertaken.**

The Department has been in consultation with the Local Government Association of the NT (LGANT) and the Big Rivers Waste Management Group, which includes Katherine Town Council, Victoria Daly and Roper Gulf Regional Councils, since

2017 about the need for improved waste management and recycling in regional and remote areas of the NT.

6. How many jobs is the Katherine Materials Recovery Facility expected to provide in both the construction phase and the operational phase?

This will be considered as part of stage 1 and 2 of project.

7. How much of the Territory's population currently has access to recycling facilities? How many additional people is the Katherine Materials Recovery Facility expected to reach?

The construction of a MRF in Katherine will provide accessibility to recycling services for at least the Big Rivers region, and potentially parts of the Barkly region and southern areas of Greater Darwin Region, such as Pine Creek and south-west West Arnhem Regional Council area.

Kerbside recycling is available in Darwin, Palmerston and only, with recyclables delivered to a local recycling company (NTRS) or transported interstate by Cleanaway, Veolia or JJ Richards.

Residents of Litchfield, Katherine, Barkly and Alice Springs councils can take recyclables to the local waste management facility or transfer station. Recyclables are transported interstate, or otherwise landfilled.