

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

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

Gove Port Upgrade

Budget 22/23 announced that the NT Government is investing \$10 million over three years to upgrade the commercial precinct at the Gove Port to expand the Territory's maritime industry and create jobs.

Questions:

1. Who is the operator of the Gove Port?

Gove Port is not a declared port under the *Ports Management Act 2015*. As such, there is no formal operator.

Gove Port is a declared Pilotage Area and Alcan Gove Pty is the declared Pilotage Authority through agreement with the NT Government. This means that all vessels over 35 metres entering the port of Gove must take one of the Alcan Gove Pty pilots or be exempt from compulsory pilotage with the area through a Pilot Exemption Certificate.

Alcan Gove Pty contract the pilotage to Auriga Pilots (formally Australian Reef Pilots).

2. How will the expenditure of the \$10 million be programmed and when will it be spent?

The \$10 million is for a multi-user wharf. Initially, a port development plan will be undertaken in partnership with the Traditional Owners and key stakeholders. This work will also inform the planning for the transition of Rio Tinto operations ceasing.

The \$10 million will be leveraged through other potential funding sources as well. This will be determined post the port development plan work.

3. What will actually be delivered at the Gove Port from the \$10 million investment?

As stated above, it will be for the port development plan work as well as for a multi-use wharf.

4. How many jobs will this create during construction and permanently in the longer term?

This will be determined through the port development plan.

5. How will the Territory's maritime industry be expanded after the completion of the upgrades to Gove Port?

Previous work undertaken on the Gove Port economic diversification indicated that Gove's strategic geographic position between Darwin and Cairns lends it to being a key service hub for fishing and seafood industry, tourism and recreation as well as Defence.

A partnership between the NT Government, Developing East Arnhem Land, Gumatj Corporation and Ngarrariyal Aboriginal Corporation Ltd was previously agreed and funded to build a new tourism facility at the Gove Boat Club. This work is in delivery and is separate to the \$10 million.

The \$10 million is new funding to facilitate the construction of a multiuser wharf to service industries other than tourism such as commercial fishing vessels.

6. How many construction jobs will be supported by the Port upgrades project?

This is not known at this stage given we are only at the beginning of the project development and planning phase.

7. Is any other private company or contractor contributing to the cost of the port upgrade? What is this additional contribution?

It is the intent of this funding that there will be others contributing. The "who" and "how much" is not known at this stage.