

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics:

Lee Point shorebirds

1. There are 36 out of the 37 species of migratory shorebirds in Australia that have been recorded in Darwin and the Lee Point area is home to sites that host internationally and nationally significant shorebirds. The critical importance of the Lee Point area is acknowledged in Development permit DP18/0409. Condition 2 of the development permit states *"Prior to the endorsement of plans and prior to the commencement of works (including site preparation), the proponent is to develop and commence implementation of a monitoring program to quantify impacts on shorebirds. The program is to be developed on the advice of the Flora and Fauna division, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Wildlife and Heritage division, Department of Tourism and Culture, to the satisfaction of the consent authority."*
Has this been done for all stages? And is the monitoring program publicly available?
2. I understand, the development of Defence Housing Australia (DHA)'s first migratory shorebird plan was undertaken by Ecoz, but then changed to Ecology and Heritage Partners. Is there a reason why this occurred?
3. Could you advise why DHA has used a botanist to develop the Ecology and Heritage Partners shorebird plan? And, has DHA contracted the services of a botanist to develop any other plans in relation to the Lee Point project, or just the migratory shorebird plan?
4. Condition 2 of development permit DP18/0409 states that the migratory shorebird monitoring program needed to be implemented prior the commencement of works on the DHA Lee Point development. In the most recent migratory shorebird plan from December 2023, it was stated that shorebird monitoring occurred on the 27th and 28th of July. As per best practice methods outlined in the plan, a tide greater than 6 metres is required for effective monitoring. I am advised there were no tides greater than 6 metres during daylight hours on the 27th and 28th July 2023. Given that there were no tides greater than 6 metres on the 27th and 28th of July, does this mean the zoologists undertaking the shorebird monitoring on those days failed to meet the methods detailed in the revised plan?
5. Please provide dates for commencement of works on the DHA project at Lee Point? If these dates were before the 27th and 28th of July, does that mean DHA have failed to meet the criteria outlined in condition 2 (outlined in Question 4) of development permit DP18/0409?

6. What risks does the recent clearing of stage 3, without an approved Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, pose to the migratory shorebirds who populate the nearby Sandy Creek site? Has there been any monitoring of this site since the works were undertaken?