



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 242

WRITTEN QUESTION

J Davis to the Minister for Tourism and Hospitality, Hon Marie-Clare Boothby
MLA:

Darwin Waterfront Corporation Finances and Hotel Site

1. The Corporation's 2024–25 annual report reports a net deficit of \$3.28 million, against a net deficit of \$0.25 million in 2023–24.
 - a. What accounts for that increase?
 - b. Please provide the net operating result for each of the five years to 2024–25, so the movement can be seen in series.
 - c. What net result is forecast for 2025–26, and on what assumptions?
 - d. The report records total grants and subsidies revenue of \$24.257 million in 2024–25 against \$25.153 million in 2023–24 — a reduction of \$0.896 million, comprising a fall in current grants from \$19.945 million to \$19.783 million and in capital grants from \$5.208 million to \$4.475 million. Was that reduction a decision of Government and, if so, on what basis?
 - e. What is the forecast operating result for 2025–26?
2. The Corporation's annual reports record expenditure on consultants of \$443,000 in 2021–22, \$550,000 in 2022–23, \$283,000 in 2023–24 and \$750,000 in 2024–25. The 2024–25 report notes that the figure includes fees for the Corporation's publicly procured Ernst and Young consultancy with Infrastructure NT.
 - a. Please itemise the 2024–25 consultant engagements by consultant, purpose and amount.
 - b. What was the value of the Ernst and Young engagement, what was its scope, and was it procured by open tender? If not, under which exemption?

- c. Has the resulting work been completed, and will it be provided to the Assembly?
 - d. Given the Masterplan was released in 2022, what does the business case cover that the Masterplan did not?
 - e. Was that engagement put to competitive tender and, if not, under what procurement exemption was it awarded?
 - f. Has the business case been completed, and will it be published?
- 3. What is the current status of the Darwin Waterfront Corporation's new hotel project following the developer's withdrawal on 2 December 2025?
 - a. The Treasurer stated that the Government is working to develop a "high-level concept" for the site. What is that concept, what stage has it reached, and what is the Corporation's role in it?
 - b. Will the site be released for expressions of interest and, if so, on what timeframe?
 - c. What consultation with Larrakia traditional owners has occurred, or is planned, in relation to any further development at the site?
- 4. In September 2025 the Corporation added SH Darwin Hotel as a party to its existing authority certificate under the provisions inserted into the Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act in May 2025. Was the Corporation the first authority certificate holder to use those provisions?
 - a. What advice did the Corporation obtain before doing so, and can that advice be tabled?
 - b. Does the Corporation intend to rely on that certificate, as varied, for any further development at the site?
- 5. Budget Paper No. 3 for 2026–27 reports a single key performance indicator for the Darwin Waterfront Corporation output — the increase in international and national delegate numbers at the Darwin Convention Centre.
 - a. What measures does the Corporation report to the Minister on its financial performance, precinct management and asset condition, and at what frequency?
 - b. Why is no measure of the Corporation's operating result published in the budget papers?
 - c. Will a measure of the operating result be included in the 2027–28 budget papers?