

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs. Finocchiaro to the Treasurer

CBD Beautification

1. How much does the Government expect to raise from the derelict and vacant site levy?
2. Where will this additional revenue go, will it be to general government revenue in the Central Holding Authority or will it be ring fenced in the Department of Trade, Business and Innovation to be awarded to Darwin City Council for beautification works?
3. Has the Government developed a beautification plan to roll out as the new tax rolls out? If not, why not?
4. How was the beautification plan developed?
5. Please explain how an upgrade of State Square “activates” the Darwin CBD?

Answers

1. The 2018 Budget included an estimate of \$3 million per annum, subject to finalising the design of the levy, but the Treasurer has consistently said she hopes to raise no money from the level, she would prefer that property owner's upgrade, improve or develop their sites.
2. The objective of the levy is to encourage the revitalisation of the Darwin CBD through innovative development of underdeveloped or underutilised land and property.

The government is carefully considering a number of factors in the design of the levy, including its boundary and administration, to strike a balance between promoting immediate and long-run investment in the CBD, while being sensitive to market conditions. Public and stakeholder consultation on the levy will occur prior to its commencement.

Revenue from the levy will go into the Central Holding Authority, consistent with other sources of revenue; however, it is intended to be a development incentive rather than a revenue raising measure.

3. The beautification and revitalisation of the Darwin CBD will be progressed through the City Deal initiative. Further detail is provided in the response to Question 5.
4. Refer to the response to Question 5.
5. The government is in negotiations with the Commonwealth for the Darwin City Deal to drive investment and improve amenities for residents and local business. This is a collaborative project between the Territory Government, Commonwealth Government, the City of Darwin, Charles Darwin University and local stakeholders to inform a 10-year plan for the Darwin CBD.

The already announced redevelopment of State Square will achieve a number of government objectives, including:

- Cooling the CBD: the construction of an underground car park and demolition of the Chan building would allow the redevelopment of at-grade car parks that currently generate heat in the CBD. The cooler environment increases both the liveability of the CBD and encourages people to spend more time in the CBD.
- Greening the CBD: the at-grade car parks and Chan building will make way for more landscaping, improving the amenity and comfort of the CBD.
- Activation: the additional landscaped areas provide greater opportunity for pop-up events and festivals to utilise the area. Facilities such as an art gallery will increase the visitation to the area. Improving the connection between Cullen Bay and the Waterfront via Smith Street would also increase the ability for pedestrians to move within and throughout the CBD. Locating the underground car park nearby with 450 bays over three levels would also attract people to use and pass through the area.

A proposal to relocate a number of Charles Darwin University faculties to the CBD is currently being considered as part of the Darwin City Deal negotiations. This would further support CBD activation by encouraging more people to live and socialise within the Darwin CBD, increasing the potential customer base and supporting the case for longer opening hours for CBD retail and hospitality businesses.