LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Ms J Carney to Minister for Planning and Lands

Darwin Waterfront Development - Contaminated Soil

- 1. In relation to the Darwin Waterfront Development what amount of contaminated soil is to be removed and where is it going to be placed?
- 2. What are the ongoing costs to the Northern Territory Government for the storage of this contaminated soil from the Darwin Waterfront Development?

ANSWER

1. The primary source of contaminated soil results from petroleum hydrocarbons which have leaked into the soil over time.

This material presents as a smear in the zone of soil affected by the groundwater table. This material is only likely to be intercepted at a few locations where excavations intercept the groundwater table. Investigations indicate a total of 5000 cubic metres is likely to be encountered and require removal in the Stage 1 works and a total of 15 000 cubic metres has been estimated for the remainder of the site over the duration of the development. These quantities may vary dependent on what is encountered during construction and associated requirements of the Contaminated Land Auditor to ensure endorsement of the remediation works is obtained.

The hydrocarbon impacted material will be treated by a process of biopiling which reduces the hydrocarbon impact through bacterial action and renders the soil suitable for use as land fill. This process may take place on site or alternatively at the Shoal Bay waste disposal site subject to satisfactory commercial arrangements being negotiated with the Darwin City Council.

Metals impacted soils will be encountered in subsequent stages of the development in the Fort Hill area of the site. Investigations indicate a total of 5000 cubic metres is likely to be encountered requiring disposal. Further studies are currently underway to determine the responsiveness to stabilising the metals within the soil matrix prior to disposal.

2. There will be no ongoing costs for the storage of the material and the decontaminated soil will become available for future beneficial uses.