



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 243

WRITTEN QUESTION

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

Darwin Waterfront Corporation Governance and Remuneration

1. What is the current remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer of the Darwin Waterfront Corporation, on what basis is the position engaged, and how many days per week does the position work?
 - a. On what date was the current contract approved, by whom, and what is its term?
 - b. Was the contract subject to a job evaluation review before approval?
 - c. How does the current remuneration compare with the remuneration payable immediately before the current contract?
2. How many Northern Territory Government boards, commissions or statutory bodies does the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation hold appointments on, and what is the total remuneration payable across all of those positions?
3. The Corporation's 2024–25 annual report discloses that it employed the spouse of a Board Member as its Chief Financial Officer on a fixed-term contract from 7 October 2024 to 7 March 2025, to carry out tasks including the completion of the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024 and the audit thereof, overseeing financial operations of the Corporation, and a review of the corporate structure. The report states that because the officer “had no direct involvement in planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Corporation”, the remuneration of the Chief Financial Officer “is not included in the aggregate compensation of key management personnel in note 18 (iii)”. The report does not state the amount.
 - a. What was the total remuneration paid under that contract?
 - b. Was that position advertised and, if not, under what provision was a direct appointment made?

- c. What conflict of interest declarations were made in relation to that engagement, and by whom?
 - d. Has the review of the corporate structure been completed, and will it be provided to the Assembly?
- 4. Does the Corporation classify the position of Chief Financial Officer as key management personnel and, if not, what criteria does it apply in determining which positions are key management personnel?
- 5. The Public Accounts Committee's Inquiry into the Darwin Waterfront Corporation was tabled on 31 July 2025. It concluded that none of the four allegations in its terms of reference were substantiated, and states at paragraph 3.24 that the Committee "has made one recommendation" directed at strengthening community confidence in the Corporation and the AustralAsia Railway Corporation.
 - a. What recommendation does the Government understand the Committee to have made?
 - b. Has the Government provided a response to that report? If so, on what date and in which document; if not, is one intended?
 - c. What action has the Government taken, since that report was tabled, to strengthen community confidence in the governance of the two corporations?
 - d. Two dissenting reports were tabled with that report. What consideration has the Government given to the matters raised in them, and where is that recorded?
- 6. My dissenting report to that inquiry records that the Corporation declined, when asked at the public briefing on 3 June 2025, to make public its conflict of interest management processes, its conflict of interest register, its Board minutes, and the internal audits it conducted between 2022 and 2024.
 - a. Will the Corporation now publish its conflict of interest register? If not, under which provision or policy is it withheld?
 - b. Will the Corporation publish redacted Board minutes, as occurs in local government? If not, what is the reason?
 - c. How many internal audits did the Corporation complete between 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2024, what was the subject of each, and will they be provided to the Assembly?
 - d. Is there a written conflict of interest management plan governing the holding of chief executive roles at both the Corporation and

the AustralAsia Railway Corporation by the same person? If so, what is its title and date, and will it be provided?

7. My dissenting report records that an officer received six consecutive periods of higher duties allowance, none exceeding six months, running without a break from 19 February 2018 to 5 April 2020 across two roles, and that the only rationale provided to the Committee was that because no period exceeded six months, the usual requirements were not engaged.
 - a. Which provision or determination sets the six-month threshold above which open recruitment or job evaluation is required?
 - b. Does that provision limit the number of consecutive higher duties periods that may be approved for the same officer in the same or related roles? If not, will the Government consider imposing such a limit?
 - c. How many officers of the Corporation have received consecutive periods of higher duties allowance totalling more than twelve months since 1 January 2018?
 - d. On what basis was the hybrid ECO2 position created, and was a job evaluation undertaken before it was created? If not, what approval was relied on?
8. The submission of the Commissioner for Public Employment to that inquiry recorded that the Corporation is not a nominated agency for the purposes of the Public Sector Employment and Management Act 1993, that the Commissioner therefore has no jurisdiction over its employment arrangements, and that while such entities often mirror the Commissioner's employment policies there is no formal requirement that they do so.
 - a. Does the Corporation mirror the Commissioner's employment policies and determinations? If so, in which document is that adoption recorded, and is it binding?
 - b. Will the Government nominate the Corporation as an agency for the purposes of that Act? If not, what is the reason?
 - c. Which other Territory statutory corporations are outside the Act in the same way?
9. What is the Corporation's policy on the use of Waterfront car parking spaces by its employees and officers for private purposes?
 - a. Have any parking spaces been used for the private storage of vehicles and, if so, what charge or fringe benefits tax treatment has applied?

10. What payments has the Corporation made to Place Leaders Asia Pacific in each year in which payments were made, and what were those payments for?
 - a. What arrangements were in place to manage any conflict of interest arising from a Corporation officer holding a directorship of that company?
11. Has the Minister received the briefing she requested from the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet in relation to governance at the Corporation?
 - a. On what date was it received, and what did it recommend?
 - b. Will the briefing be made public and, if not, why not?
 - c. What steps has the Minister taken in response to it?