

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Higgins to the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics

Completing the State Square Project

- 1. Would you please provide detail on your plans for completing the State Square Project?**

The Northern Territory Government is committed to revitalising the Darwin CBD, which includes consideration of the State Square Precinct to provide better pedestrian connection and amenity for visitors, tourists and residents; and to improve linkages between the Waterfront, the Esplanade and the Darwin Mall.

The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, in collaboration with the Department of the Chief Minister and the Northern Territory Government Architect, has commenced a review of the capacity and amenity of the State Square Precinct, including consideration of all previous masterplans for the Precinct.

- 2. What are the Government's plans for the Chan Building currently in the centre of the State Square precinct?**

Currently, the Chan Building is subject to a Request for Tender advertised as at 12 December 2016, for repairs to the roof, windows air-conditioning and general building works to ensure the building is sealed for moisture entering the spaces and secured from unauthorised entry.

The proposed works are expected to extend the life of the building for at least another 5 years.

The future of the Chan Building is the subject of considerable discussion, with a final decision pending the outcome of an NT Museums Masterplan and plans to revitalise the CBD and State Square Precinct.

3. What planning and analysis has been undertaken to inform any decision regarding future use of the Chan Building?

See response to Question 2 above.

4. Should the Government elect to demolish the Chan Building, what provision has been made for:

a. Additional costs and risk associated with the presence of asbestos in the building.

The majority of asbestos has been removed from the building, however there remains a component in the external cladding. This is a stabilised form of asbestos and is not required to be removed unless the façade of the building was to be replaced.

b. Relocating significant and critical ICT infrastructure such as mainframes supporting several Government Departments

The Government has relocation planning in place, progressively being actioned.

5. If the Chan Building is to be demolished when will works commence?

See response to Question 2 above.

- 6. At present the Chan Building is subject to an application for heritage listing. Is the Government aware of such action, and how will this application influence plans for the Chan Building?**

The current Heritage Application has been determined, with no implications for the building. The applicant retains the right to dispute the determination, but no dispute has been lodged to date.

- 7. If the Chan Building is demolished, what is the Government proposing as an alternative or adequate replacement for the Chan building?**

See response to Question 2 above.

- 8. Aside from the Chan Building, what is the Government's vision for the State Square Precinct?**

See response to Question 1 above.

- 9. Does the Government have a plan for the State Square Precinct?**
- a. What are the timeframes around this plan?**
 - b. What funding has been allocated to deliver this plan?**

It is anticipated that options will be presented to Government following the review of the State Square Precinct.

Funding will not be committed until such time as Government has assessed the planning options and potential costs.