



MINISTER FOR LOGISTICS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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Russell Keith
Public Accounts Committee
Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory

Via email: LA.PAC@nt.gov.au

Dear Mr Keith

Thank you for the Committee's report on the Inquiry into the Indigenous Employment Provisional Sum (IEPS), tabled on 30 October 2025. I appreciate the Committee's thorough examination of the scheme and its recommendations for strengthening governance and improving Aboriginal employment outcomes.

In response, I wish to advise that the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure (the Department) has already implemented a range of reforms, including:

- Providing the Audit, Risk and Investigations Unit with the ability to report matters directly to the Chief Executive Officer, ensuring greater transparency and objectivity.
- Centralising and actively monitoring contractor performance reviews, supported by comprehensive staff training in updated procedures.
- Strengthening governance structures, including enhanced conflict-of-interest declaration processes and revised meeting schedules to support effective oversight.
- Consistently exceeding government targets for awarding contracts to Aboriginal Business Enterprises, while refining systems to improve verification of Aboriginal participation.
- Embedding enhanced controls, improved document management practices, and strengthened contract management and procurement training, including elements of risk management.

While these measures address the Committee's immediate recommendations, I acknowledge that further improvements are required to ensure a coordinated and effective approach to procurement and Aboriginal participation.

Accordingly, this Department will continue to work closely with the Department of Trade, Business and Asian Relations, which is responsible for procurement, to maintain strong alignment with whole-of-government policy and compliance requirements.

The Government remains committed to continuous improvement in this area and will continue to report on progress as required under Standing Order 201.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further information or clarification.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bill Yan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

BILL YAN

29 JAN 2026