

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Higgins to the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics:

Appropriation Bill

ALL OUTPUTS

Please accept apologies if questions are not under the correct Output. Where this is the case, it would be appreciated if you could indicate the appropriate Output in your response. Thank You.

OUTPUT GROUP: INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PROGRAM SUPPORT AND DELIVERY

OUTPUT: INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT DELIVERY

Traffic management upgrades

1. Please advise if any allocation has been made in Budget 17/18 to signalise the Stuart Highway intersection with Goyder Road? Will the Government commit to making such an allocation and a time by when works will commence?
2. What provision has been made for a capital allocation to upgrade works on the Port Keats Road? How much has been provided, and when will these works start?
3. Will the Government continue with the previous Government's plan to have NTG Shopfronts in smaller regional centres? How much will it cost, and when will the first building be constructed or lease signed?

Re-prioritisation

1. Please provide the evidence informing the re-prioritisation of the government's Infrastructure program?
2. What measurements were used to weigh up decisions regarding these strategic investments?
3. Was there a business case? If not why not?
4. Was there a cost benefit analysis? If not, why not?

5. Was there a community needs analysis? If not, why not?
6. When will the Government make this advice or analysis public?
7. Please provide an update on the following infrastructure projects of major importance to the Electorate of Spillett. What monies does Budget 17/18 commit and how do they fit with the Draft Infrastructure Strategy:
 - a. Kirkland Road/Woodlake Boulevard intersections
 - b. Durack Primary School 'kiss and go' zone
 - c. Palmerston Regional Police Station
 - d. Zuccoli Public Primary School
 - e. Beautification of Farrar Boulevard, Johnston
8. Please provide copies of the business cases that explain the economic benefits behind a proposed new Darwin museum and an under-ground car-park in State Square.

Solar Energy

1. Please outline what business case there is for the \$1.5 million Centre for Excellence in Solar Energy in Alice Springs as detailed on page 44 of Budget Paper.
2. What needs or cost benefit analysis was conducted?

Rocky Creek

1. Please provide an update on when Rocky Creek Bridge and flood immunity funding will be allocated? How long will Territorians have to wait for this critical project?
2. When is work likely to begin?

Alice Springs

1. Alice Springs has had 5 ten year plans but no Masterplan, what steps is Government taking to support the development of a Masterplan for Alice Springs?

2. What actions are being taken to make Alice Springs a transport hub?
3. What actions is Government taking to improve flood mitigation in Alice Springs?
4. What actions are been taken to rectify the fact that there is no emergency access across the river during times of flood?

Building Assets Inspected

1. Budget 17/18 page 94 Budget Paper 3 states that building asset inspections will rise from 15% in financial year 16/17 to 50% in financial year 17/18. The note states this is due to a systems upgrade. Please explain what is meant by this systems upgrade.
2. How much will this systems upgrade cost?

Annual Report of Department of Transport 2015/16

1. Has the Regional Economic Infrastructure Fund been cut? If so, why?
2. If so, what research, modelling or business case was there to support the decision to cut the Regional Economic Infrastructure Fund?

Aviation Industry and Services Strategy 2020

1. Please provide an update on the progress of the Aviation Industry and Services Strategy 2020.
2. What resources will Budget 17/18 make available for completion and implementation of the Aviation Industry and Services Strategy 2020?

Roads and Bridges Strategy

1. Please provide an update on the progress of the Roads and Bridges Strategy.
2. What resources will Budget 17/18 make available for implementation and realisation of the Roads and Bridges Strategy?

Katherine Heavy Vehicle Alternate Route

1. Please provide an update on the progress of the Katherine Heavy Vehicle Alternate Route.

2. What resources will Budget 17/18 make available for realisation of the Katherine Heavy Vehicle Alternative Route?

Batchelor Aerodrome Master Plan

1. Please provide an update on the progress of the Batchelor Aerodrome Master Plan.
2. What resources will Budget 17/18 make available for completion, implementation and realisation of the Batchelor Aerodrome Master Plan.

Sealing the Tanami Road

1. Why does Budget 17/18 only allocate \$3 million for upgrade and seal targeted sections of the Tanami Road given that the Annual Report of the Department of Transport 2015/16 page 26 notes that 'sealing the Tanami Road will save \$7.75 per head of cattle, according to modelling done by the CSIRO and the Australian Government'?
2. What research or business case was there to support this decision?
3. Did the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, and Logistics request more than \$3 million (allocated in Budget 17/18) for sealing of the Tanami Road? If not, why not?

Mount Isa to Tennant Creek Rail Link

1. Please provide an update on the progress of the Mount Isa to Tennant Creek Rail Link.
2. What resources will Budget 17/18 make available for completion, implementation and realisation of the Mount Isa to Tennant Creek Rail Link plan?

Litchfield Sub Regional Plan

1. What resources will Budget 17/18 allocate to achieving objectives set out in the Litchfield Sub-regional plan?
2. What is the current timeline for full implementation and completion of the Litchfield Sub Regional Plan?
3. What is the current schedule for consultation and works on Activity Centres as outlined in the Litchfield Sub-regional Plan?

4. What money has been allocated for community consultation?

Katherine –Inland Port

1. *The Government had committed to making Katherine an Inland Port. What is an 'inland port'?*
2. *What is the timeline for making Katherine an 'inland port'?*

Fred's Pass Reserve

1. The previous Government committed \$2 million to Fred's Pass Reserve; please provide an update on how much of this money has been spent. What provision is there in the 2017/18 budget for Fred's Pass Reserve?

Saddle Rail

1. Please provide an update on the progress of upgrading Saddle Rail in the Daly region.
2. What is the timeframe for delivering on the upgrade on Saddle Rail?
3. Does the Government agree that there is no point doing Yellow Creek without doing Saddle Rail?

Boat Ramps

1. Please provide an update on the number of boat ramps across the Northern Territory that are maintained by the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics.
2. Who is currently responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of South Port Boat Ramp?
3. Who will be responsible for maintaining the South Port Boat Ramp into the future?
4. Pine Creek is littered with banjo lines, and Pine Creek is but one area in the electorate of Daly affected by banjo lines. What actions will Government take to deal with this issue and when?
5. Is there any investment in the Adelaide River boat ramp to address the safety concerns of anglers when using the public boat ramp at low tide or has consideration been given to installing a new or opening up the existing commercial pontoon to recreational anglers?

Oxford Road Subdivision (Berry Springs)

1. Please provide an update on progress of developments at Oxford Road Subdivision in Berry Springs.

OUTPUT: ASSET MANAGEMENT

1. Please explain the decrease in expenditure in this output group for Budget 17/18.
2. Will the \$15 million reduction have a negative impact on performance or service delivery?
3. What evidence is there to support this view and will the Government provide a copy of the advice?
4. What software is being run by the Department to administer the asset management program?

OUTPUT GROUP: LANDS AND PLANNING

OUTPUT: LAND DEVELOPMENT

Lands and Planning

1. Why did Budget 17/18 decrease by \$6,339,000?
2. Under the previous Government the Planning Commission was tasked with a program of accelerated work. Will this program continue?
3. What resources are allocated to an accelerated works program?
4. Please provide an update on Regional Land Use Plans – what plans have yet to be finalised, and what are the operational timelines for completion of these plans?

Richardson Park

1. Please advise how many submissions have been received with respect to development at Richardson Park under the previous Government's Request for Proposals process. What were the purposes of these submissions?
2. What has happened to these submissions?

3. What are the Government's plans in relation to Richardson Park?

Dual Occupancy

1. *What resources were made available by the Government to the Dual Occupancy review?*
2. *What effect would dual occupancy have on the median house price in Darwin if approved?*
3. *Has modelling been conducted on the consequences of approving dual occupancy?*
4. *If not, why not?*
5. *How much is Elton Consulting being paid to run the consultation phase of the Dual Occupancy review on behalf of the Government?*
6. Please explain the decrease in expenditure in this output group for Budget 17/18.
7. Please provide an update on the progress of further land releases at Zuccoli. What is the timeframe for these releases?
8. What is the timeframe for land release at Berrimah Farm?
9. Please provide an update on how this program of land release is tracking against Departmental estimates.
10. What plans are there for the Cox Peninsula?
11. What plans are there for Weddell?
12. How does the Government view developments like Noonamah Ridge, supportive or not?
13. What is happening with further development and land release around Bayview?
14. What is the medium to long term plan for areas now covered by the Kenbi land claim?
15. What consultation has the Department had with traditional owners at Kenbi? Please provide the details.

16. How often does the Department communicate and interface with traditional owners and the Land Council?

OUTPUT: CROWN LAND ESTATE

1. Please provide an update on the forward forecasts for Crown Land usage over the short, medium and long run.
2. What challenges exist in this output group?
3. What is the Government doing to address those challenges?
4. Does the Minister issue directives around expected yield?
5. How much Crown Land is currently in dispute?
6. What is the Government's preferred modus operandi when it comes to dispute- i.e. settle or fight to maintain Crown status?

OUTPUT: ABORIGINAL LAND

1. How many staff are engaged in this output group?
2. Please outline the different roles for this output group and the Aboriginal Unit in the Department of the Chief Minister?
3. How many outstanding land claims are under consideration?
4. What is the timeframe for resolution of each?

OUTPUT: LANDS PLANNING

1. Please explain the increase in expenditure in this output group.
2. What challenges exist in this output group?
3. What is the Government doing to address those challenges?
4. Please provide an update on the progress of the Survey Approvals Online project Stage 1.

OUTPUT: BUILDING ADVISORY SERVICES

1. Please explain the increase in expenditure in this output group.

2. What challenges exist in this output group?
3. What is the Government doing to address those challenges?
4. Does the Government intend to introduce mandatory pool fencing in the Rural Area?
5. Does the Government intend to change the pool fencing requirements in any way across the Northern Territory?
6. Is the current regulatory framework achieving its objective?
7. Who qualifies to give advice to Government? What are the requirements?
8. How often are regulatory minimum standards across Building Advisory Services reviewed?
9. Why is this review period used?
10. What is the evidence to support this timeframe for review?
11. What is the current carbon content required for steel to satisfy Building Advisory Services structural requirements?
12. Please advise the measures the Department has in place to guarantee that building materials imported from overseas meet the required standard so as not to contain asbestos including specific safeguards, oversight and processes?
13. What amount is set aside in Budget 17/18 and the forward estimates for building material integrity inspection?

OUTPUT: LAND INFORMATION

1. Please explain the decrease in expenditure in this output group.
2. What challenges exist in this output group?
3. What is the Government doing to address those challenges?

OUTPUT GROUP: LOGISTICS INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

OUTPUT: PASSENGER TRANSPORT

1. The Government has committed to slash the licence fees for taxis and CPVs. This reduction in licence fees for taxis and CPVs leaves a \$4 million shortfall. If Uber is unwilling to operate in the NT will the Government still proceed with slashing taxi licence fees?
2. How will the Government plug the revenue shortfall?

Darwin Regional Transport Plan 2016

1. Please detail what monies have been made available in Budget 17/18 and/or the forward estimates to support the Darwin Regional Transport Plan 2016.
2. At 86% Darwin compares less favourably to the national average of 82% motor vehicle use for journey to work. Will there be additional resources to reduce the number of persons using a motor vehicle for their journey to work?

Buses

1. What is the policy of the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics when it comes to public buses driving on dirt roads?
2. When will public buses serve the new Coolalinga Central?
3. When will there be an expansion of public bus services in the Berry Springs area?
4. When will the new route 74 serving Johnston and Zuccoli be implemented and will it go up as far as Zuccoli Aspire?
5. When will a public bus service to Durack Heights commence?
6. Will the Zuccoli Catholic School be served by a school bus route linking Sacred Heart Primary School and Mackillop College?
7. Will changes be made to the existing bus route to accommodate the new Bellamack village centre?
8. Bakewell Woolworths is only served by a bus route in one direction. Are there plans to address this so that residents can travel to and from the centre without having to ride the entire loop?

9. Are there any changes to seniors and student concessions for bus travel?
10. Are there any changes to the Royal Darwin Hospital shuttle that serves the Palmerston area? Has there been a decrease in operational times or service delivery? Will this still operate when the Palmerston Hospital opens? Will there be a similar shuttle to the Palmerston Hospital?
11. How much did the Government pay for the automated bus on the Waterfront?
12. Did they lease or purchase the automated bus outright?
13. Did they consult with any industry groups before proceeding?

Rural Bus Services

1. What expansions of the public bus network will occur in financial year 17/18?
2. Have any needs analysis and community surveys been undertaken in the Rural Area with respect to public transport?
3. Does public transport feature in the Litchfield Sub Regional Plan?
4. What changes will occur to the school bus service in the Rural Area in the coming year?
5. What changes will occur to the school bus services in the Berry Springs area?
6. When will there be a bus from Batchelor to bring patients in to either RDH or the new Palmerston Hospital?
7. What provision has been made in the Department's strategic plan for persons living in the Rural Area that do not drive, and hence require public transport?
8. What economic analysis has been done on the benefits of expanding the public transport offering in the Rural Area and beyond?

OUTPUT: REGISTRATION AND LICENCING

1. Please explain the decrease in expenditure in this output group.
2. What challenges exist in this output group?

3. What is the Government doing to address those challenges?
4. What business case is there to support the Government's decision to increase registration fees for all Territorians?
5. Has the Government modelled the impact of these registration hikes on economic activity?
6. How will these registration hikes support population growth in the Northern Territory?
7. Are there plans to include further biometric information on licences in the Northern Territory?
8. Is greater automation of front office services part of the Government's plan to achieve operational efficiencies?
9. How much does an average, non-customised licence plate cost the department to buy?
10. Who makes the licence plates?
11. Are they made locally?
12. Could these plates be made in Indigenous communities like Wadeye?

OUTPUT: ROAD SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE

1. What outcomes are achieved as a result of this investment?
2. Were consultants used in preparation of the Towards Zero strategy?
3. If yes, were they locally based consultants?
4. How much was paid to consultants for their services for the 'Towards Zero' strategy?

OUTPUT: TRANSPORT PLANNING AND DELIVERY

Port

1. How will the Government exercise an option on 20% of the lease of Darwin Port? What financial impact will this will have on the Budget?
2. Should government proceed with the option to acquire a 20% interest in the Port lease, will the Government release to Territorians the final price paid to the Landbridge Corporation for the investment?
3. What is the rationale or business case underpinning the desire to acquire a 20% stake in the Port Lease?
4. Please provide a copy of the evidence or modelling that shows that this decision makes sense financially and is in the best interest of Territorians.
5. If the Government does secure a 20% interest in the leasehold of the Port, what impact will this new investment have on existing Landbridge and Port Company governance structures?
6. What impact will more residential apartments adjacent to the proposed luxury hotel at the Waterfront have on the existing property market?
7. How many units are currently vacant in Darwin?
8. How many of these vacant units are held by investors?

OUTPUT: TRANSPORT ASSETS

Bus Service

1. Please explain the decrease in expenditure in this output group.
2. What challenges exist in this output group?
3. What is the Government doing to address those challenges?

OUTPUT GROUP: STATUTORY BODIES

OUTPUT: NORTHERN TERRITORY PLANNING COMMISSION

1. Please explain the decrease in expenditure in this output group.
2. What challenges exist in this output group?
3. What is the Government doing to address those challenges?
4. What is the timeframe for recruiting a new Chairperson and Board Members?
5. What has the level of interest been to date in these positions?
6. When will the new Board meet for the first time?
7. Has the Government considered or taken on board findings from the major community consultation work commissioned by the previous Government in relation to the old hospital site, Flagstaff Park and Myilly Point and undertaken by the Planning Commission in 2014?
8. If not, why not?
9. Will there be any residential component on the old hospital site?
10. Who was consulted in relation to the decision to build a cultural institution on the old hospital site to reflect the history of the Stolen Generation and why was the Larrakia Development Corporation not included?

OUTPUT GROUP: CORPORATE AND GOVERNANCE

OUTPUT: CORPORATE AND GOVERNANCE

Growing the Territory

1. The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics has commissioned a series of videos explaining their work called 'Growing the Territory'. Please advise the cost of this project?

Tendering

1. What safeguards and oversights are in place to ensure that Scope of Works detailed in the Request for Quotations accurately reflects and details fully the entire works required?

2. Is it possible for the current system to be corrupted by having less than the total works detailed in the contract? What safeguards are in place to prevent this?
3. What would happen if the Scope of Works detailed in a tender request were deliberately less than what was required and sought later? What would the consequences be for an Agency, and for an individual?
4. Is the Government aware of any deficiencies with the current request for tender system?

Staffing

1. Please advise how many Full Time Equivalents are currently employed within the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics broken down by Output and Business Unit.
2. How many Full Time Equivalents have resigned, retired, taken a redundancy package or have been made redundant, or terminated? Please break down these numbers by Output and Business Unit.
3. What has happened to these positions? Has the work been reallocated to existing staff?
4. Are there any plans to fill these positions in the near future?
5. Please explain a previous answer that there were no redundancies in the agency when the former Executive Director Major Projects Procurement and Contracts was made redundant.

LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

1. Please provide an update on what funding is being made available in Budget 17/18 towards development of:
 - a. Marine Industry Park
 - b. Tiwi Development Project
 - c. Katherine Business Park
2. When will these projects be funded, and operational?

3. With respect to the Katherine Business Park (KBP), what is the anticipated cost of finalising the Native Title claim with Traditional Owners?
4. What feasibility studies have been done on the KBP? When will these be released?
5. Has the Land Development Corporation funding decreased by \$6 million in Budget 17/18. Why?

Land Release

1. What are the Government's plans for land release and development over the short, medium and long term?

Weddell

1. Please provide an update on what progress has been made on planning for and building Weddell.

Humpty Doo Regional Centre

1. Please provide an update on what funds are available in the Budget for the upgrade of head works and infrastructure to support development of private land.

Northern Territory Planning Commission

1. Budget Paper 3 page 87 shows a 27% reduction in funding to the Northern Territory Planning Commission. Budget 17/18 cuts \$149,000 from the NT Planning Commission's budget. What impact will this reduction have on the delivery of services and output of this area?
2. Why does the Planning Commission not have a social media presence?
3. Does the Planning Commission have a Communications Strategy or a Communications plan?
4. How much is spent on communications by the NT Planning Commission?

Berrimah Farm

1. Please provide an update on progress at the Berrimah Farm Residential Development, more popularly known as Northcrest.
2. Is it on track?

3. What impediments to progress have been identified?
4. What is the total amount of Government investment in the project?

Blatherskite Park

1. Please provide an update on developments at Blatherskite Park in Alice Springs.
2. What are the Government's plans?

Flagstaff Park Site

1. Please provide an update on what the Government's plan is for the Flagstaff park site.

Flood Mitigation

1. What is the status of flood mitigation plans for Alice Springs, what budget allocation has been made available?
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