

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

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

Territory-wide Logistics Master Plan

In June 2020, the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics released the Territory-wide Logistics Master Plan, to facilitate increasing freight and logistics connections and capacity that capture both international and domestic trade for the Northern Territory.

53 Priority Actions were identified to ensure that the Northern Territory can deliver resilient freight and logistics networks through long-term infrastructure planning and investment, and provide an evidence base for policy and regulatory framework development:

Questions:

- 1. What was the total cost of preparing and releasing the Master Plan in 2020?**

The Plan was prepared by Departmental staff and hence not through general operational budget.

- 2. What if any additional expenditure has been spent on the Master Plan since its official release?**

Nil, presuming the question is in reference to the document itself.

- 3. Of the 53 Priority Actions identified in the Master Plan, what progress has been made? Please provide a table detailing whether each priority action is completed, underway or not actioned.**

Refer to the attached table.

- 4. What expenditure has there been on achieving the 53 Priority Actions?**

Significant investment has been made on the progress of actions within the Strategy.

- 5. How does the Master Plan integrate with the National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy? What deliverables have been achieved in the past 2 years?**

The Northern Territory is delivering on major national infrastructure programs that are highlighted in the National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy (the Strategy), including Northern Australia Roads Program, and Northern Australia Beef Roads Program.

In addition, there are a number of NT specific actions identified in the Strategy for delivery through the Master Plan, including:

- development of a Darwin Ship Lift Facility;
- Katherine Logistics and Agribusiness Hub;
- remote Telecommunications Co- investment Program; and
- NT Airports Expansion Program

6. What significant actions have been implemented toward future proofing our key freight routes from natural disasters and other State/Territory emergencies?

Significant upgrade and sealing would have been completed over recent years, in support of greater resilience for our supply corridors across the Territory. This work is also being addressed nationally through work being completed in partnership with Commonwealth Bureau of Infrastructure and Transport Research Economics and Austroads.

7. What investment has the Territory made in our logistics and supply chains in the past 2 years?

There has been significant expenditure on the road network across the Territory with upgrades to sealed surface close to 1000km in length.

The NT Government is also focusing on logistics and supply chain network capacity to support developing Major Projects across the NT. Extensive modelling and mapping of supply chain demand has been undertaken which demonstrates capacity increases are required. There has also been ongoing project development for hubs in Katherine and Tennant Creek.

This work has enabled the development of the business case which has resulted in the Federal Government commitment of \$440 million in the 2022-23 budget. This \$440 million will support logistics improvements along the length of the rail line and include hubs in Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.

TABLE 1

Action No.	Description	Status
1.1	Continue to identify logistics infrastructure priorities through the 10 Year Infrastructure Plan, that is operated and maintained in an affordable manner, reduces whole of life costs, and ensures value for the Territory.	Complete and ongoing
1.2	Develop the Darwin Ship Lift Facility.	Underway
1.3	Negotiate Bringing Forward Funding under National Partnership Agreement on Land Transport Infrastructure	Complete and ongoing
1.4	Deliver road networks upgrades over 10 years through the Australian Government's \$4.5 billion Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) program	Underway
1.5	Deliver upgrades to key roads necessary for transporting cattle through the Australian Government's \$100 million Beef Roads Program	Complete
1.6	Deliver upgrades to high priority roads through the Australian Governments' \$600 million Northern Australia Roads program.	Complete
1.7	Continue to advocate for northern Australia roads funding as an economic enabler through 10 year rolling programs that provide sustainable employment for remote communities and Aboriginal people as well as providing the benefits of a sealed connection to the National Network.	Complete and ongoing
1.8	Maintain ongoing consultation with transport and logistics stakeholders, to continue to identify and address blockages and identify opportunities, such as appropriate cold storage and treatment facilities at our ports, airports and multi modal hubs.	Complete and ongoing
1.9	Work with industry and private sector to identify capacity constraints and investment opportunities in Port infrastructure, such as infrastructure required for mining exports.	Ongoing
1.10	Continue to work with Telstra by joint funding improved telecommunications services in the bush through the Remote Telecommunications Co-Investment Program.	Complete and ongoing
1.11	Continue to advocate to the Australian Government for ongoing funding for the Remote Aerodrome Funding Program to be expanded and continue well into the future	Complete and ongoing
1.12	Work with the rail operator to ensure that infrastructure is upgraded to facilitate industry usage at the rail corridor.	Complete and ongoing

Action No.	Description	Status
1.13	Continue to advocate for a review of the traditional approach to project assessment for Australian Government funding of transport infrastructure projects.	Complete
2.1	Ensure future strategic land use planning integrates and accommodates the growing freight task through availability and preservation of transport corridors and industry precincts.	Ongoing
2.2	Continue to support Darwin as Northern Australia's capital and gateway to Asia through the planning and development of the East Arm Logistics and Marine Industry Precinct.	Ongoing
2.3	The NT Government in collaboration with the Australian Government (Austrade), Darwin Port, NT Airports and local industry will continue to work together to create air freight opportunities, infrastructure development plans, market activity, export strategies and trade support through land use.	Ongoing
2.4	Co-develop comprehensive Industry Development Strategies for key industries that cover innovation, technology, supply chain analysis, market analysis and development, workforce (including Aboriginal employment strategies) regulation and regional development opportunities.	Complete and ongoing
2.5	Continue working with the private sector on a number of initiatives to boost the mining industry in Tennant Creek and develop Tennant Creek as a mining logistics and services hub, leading to increased investment, population growth and developing service and supply opportunities.	Ongoing
2.6	Continue to plan for the future development of a railway link between Tennant Creek and Mount Isa.	Longer term project.
2.7	Complete a study to assess and identify the land, infrastructure and logistics requirements to support on-shore gas development.	Ongoing
2.8	Promote the development of the on-shore gas industry, including investment opportunities in supporting infrastructure use such as new gas pipelines and rail sidings to freight hubs.	Complete
2.9	Develop Katherine as an agribusiness logistics hub (\$30 million 3-10 years).	Ongoing
2.10	Promote the Middle Arm Industrial Precinct as a site for large strategic industries for the downstream gas and mining related developments.	Ongoing.

Action No.	Description	Status
2.11	Continue collaboration with Local Government through the Regional Roads Committees to maximise investment in the NT transport network.	Ongoing
3.1	Continue to support private investment into infrastructure and supply chains to leverage the growth of the NT's future growth industries and create jobs.	Ongoing
3.2	Implement the International Engagement, Trade and Investment Strategic Plan – guiding engagement with our international partners to grow trade, investment, partnerships and connectivity of our supply chain networks to also consider transport and logistics solutions.	Complete
3.3	Implement the NT Defence and National Security Strategy (2018) – building our supply chain capacity to support the defence industry, including attracting and retaining defence personnel and support workers and their families.	Ongoing
3.4	Engage local people in local work, particularly Aboriginal people in remote and regional areas on Northern Australian Roads and Beef Roads programs, supported by the Buy Local Plan, Aboriginal Contracting Framework and the Local Decision Making Framework.	Ongoing
3.5	Deliver the Local Jobs Fund to grow the economy and support more local jobs in the transport and logistics sector.	Complete
3.6	Support NT Government initiatives in the NT Population Growth Strategy 2018-2028 which have a direct impact on the transport and logistics sector to grow our population, including attracting investment and creating jobs and enhancing liveability.	Ongoing
3.7	Maximise new private investment for the NT through support for private sector infrastructure projects seeking financial incentives such as the Australian Governments Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF).	Ongoing
3.8	Support NT Airports deliver their \$300 million Airport Expansion at Darwin, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.	Ongoing
3.9	Work with airlines to develop ongoing air access to and within the NT.	Ongoing
3.10	Identify forward looking reforms that could provide a competitive advantage for businesses in the Northern Territory including future trends and technologies.	Ongoing
3.11	Proactively respond to the impacts of climate change through climate change proofing our infrastructure (Coordinated through the NT Climate Change Response).	Ongoing
3.12	Work with Infrastructure Australia to ensure the Australian Infrastructure Audit identifies key Northern Territory Infrastructure needs and opportunities.	Complete and ongoing

Action No.	Description	Status
3.13	Undertake a detailed service and supply strategy for the onshore-offshore gas sector, to encourage the development of local supply chains.	Complete
3.14	Undertake a product supply chain study in nearby Asian hubs to maximise product delivery through the Northern Territory.	Ongoing
3.15	As part of an annual emergency response preparedness, work with the logistics industry to ensure quick responses during an incident.	Complete and ongoing
3.16	Work with the Australian Government and other jurisdictions through the National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy to ensure Australia's continued preparedness for future national emergency responses.	Complete and ongoing
4.1	Maintain a high productivity environment for the heavy vehicle industry.	Complete and ongoing
4.2	Work with local industry and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator and the Transport Infrastructure Council to harmonise regulations where practical for the NT to facilitate seamless operations across jurisdictional borders.	Ongoing
4.3	Adopt the National Heavy Vehicle Law only when benefits to local industry in our remote and regional areas can be clearly demonstrated.	Not commenced
4.4	Complete the review of the NT Livestock Loading Scheme.	Complete
4.5	Continue to work with the National Transport Commission, the Australian Government and Austroads to accommodate automated vehicles and emerging technologies in the future.	Ongoing
4.6	Improve safety infrastructure across the NT's road network, including rest stops, barriers, signage, flood immunity improvements, and strengthening and widening roads.	Complete and ongoing
4.7	Implement findings of the review of the Ports Management Act and associated regulations supporting a high productivity port.	Complete
4.8	Continue to work with Australian Government and jurisdictions on better measurements of freight and supply chain performance data to improve industry standards and productivity.	Complete and ongoing
4.9	Work with stakeholders to develop a co-management policy for biosecurity in the NT.	Ongoing
4.10	Continue to advocate the NT's position for Land Transport Market Reform and Heavy Vehicle Road Reform.	Complete and ongoing
4.11	Continue to advocate for a balanced approach to remote and regional aerodrome safety regulations.	Complete and ongoing

Action No.	Description	Status
4.12	Continue to provide efficient operations at the new Truck/Heavy Vehicle Inspection Facility at the Transport Industry Precinct (Truck Central).	Complete
4.13	Continue to deliver the priority actions of the Towards Zero Road Safety Action Plan 2018-2022.	Complete and ongoing