

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Ms Purick to the Minister for Local Government:

Northcrest (Berrimah Farm)

1. Did the NT Government via the former Local Government and Communities Department advise the City of Darwin that the management of the unincorporated land would be subject to an expression of interest process for Litchfield Shire, City of Palmerston and City of Darwin to review and submit applications? Was this done and if not why not?
 2. Please advise why planning requirements for the Northcrest (Berrimah Farm) development were approved by the Darwin Development Consent Authority and not the Palmerston Development Consent Authority, given the recent decision to incorporate the development into the City of Palmerston.
 3. When did the Northern Territory Government advise the developer of Northcrest the decision to incorporate the Northcrest development into the City of Palmerston and how was this notification done?
 4. What decisions were made in relation to the incorporation of Northcrest via the Northern Territory Government Project Control Group for Northcrest, being the governance structure set by the Northern Territory Government to manage the Priority Development Area and the Development?
 5. Did the NT Government undertake any community and business engagement with residences and business in the unincorporated land areas as to their views or becoming part of a local government organisation? If not why not?
 6. Is there any evidence to demonstrate that residences and businesses in the areas of unincorporated land wish to become part of a local government organisation? Where is this evidence located and who undertook the work?
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Answer:

1. The former Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development did advise stakeholders that there would likely be an expression of interest process for the management of unincorporated land, at some time in the future.

The decision on whether or not to do so is a decision of Government.

2. Development Consent Authority (DCA) boundaries are historic in nature and last set in 2007.

There is no planned change to DCA boundaries at this time as local government are consulting on a change in municipal boundaries. To change boundaries ahead of any consultation process would pre-empt the outcome of a consultation process.

3. A range of stakeholders, including the Northcrest Developer, were contacted as a courtesy on the morning of 11 May 2021, prior to the public announcement of the proposed boundary expansion and the public launch of the “Have Your Say” process.
4. The decision to seek comment on an intention to expand the City of Palmerston’s boundaries to include currently unincorporated land, including Northcrest, was made by Government.
5. The NT Government has signaled its intent to extend the City of Palmerston’s boundaries to incorporate currently unincorporated land, including Northcrest.

Landholders in the area were written to as part of the information process about this, and were also invited to provide feedback as part of the publicly- available “Have Your Say” process.

6. Residences and businesses were invited to have their say on the proposal to incorporate the currently unincorporated areas. As part of this process, letters were sent to landholders, and a formal “Have Your Say” process was promoted to enable interested people to provide their views about the matter.