

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

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

Manigurr-ma Village / Howard Springs Quarantine Facility

The former INPEX Workers Camp known as Manigurr-ma Village located on Howard Springs Road, was utilised by the NT Government as a quarantine facility for the Centre for National Resilience (CNR) during the COVID-19 Pandemic up until the end of June 2022.

Questions:

- 1. When the former Centre for National Resilience ceased operation at Manigurr-Ma Village in June 2022, the Chief Minister said that no final decision had been made on the future use of this facility and that the Commonwealth still has priority access should it be needed for pandemic related issues over the next six months. As this six month period has now expired, is the facility being made available for alternative uses?**

Manigurr-Ma, Centre for National Resilience is currently being maintained under an agreement with the Australian Department of Health.

- 2. The Chief Minister has said that the NT Government will work with the Commonwealth, including Defence around the longer term use of the (Manigurr-ma Village) facility. Is the NT Government in negotiation with the Department of Defence around the longer term lease of Manigurr-ma Village?**

Negotiations are progressing with the Australian Government to use the facility in the future, including the cost of ongoing maintenance.

- 3. In December 2022, the Department of Defence indicated an interest in using Darwin's former Howard Springs quarantine facility (Manigurr-ma Village) to accommodate both local and international military personnel. Are these negotiations currently underway between the NT Government and Defence?**

Negotiations are progressing with the Australian Government to use the facility in the future including the cost of ongoing maintenance.

- 4. When is a decision on negotiations to lease this facility likely to be made?**

Commercial in Confidence.

5. What other alternative uses is the NT Government also considering apart from Defence accommodation?

Subject to further negotiations with the Australian Government.

6. Has the NT Government been approached by any other proponent with proposals on longer term future uses for this facility?

Yes.

7. It has been reported in the media that it is costing the NT Government in the order of \$400K per month to maintain this facility. What is the actual monthly cost to maintain this facility since the CNR closed in June 2022 and what is the total expenditure during that time?

The Australian Government is funding \$5 million for the maintenance until 30 June 2023.

8. What repairs and upgrades to accommodation and related facilities, if any, has been spent since the CNR closed in June 2022?

The facility is being maintained to all statutory requirements and ongoing maintenance required for a facility of this size.

No upgrades have been undertaken since the facility ceased being used as a quarantine facility.

9. Once the facility is locked in to a longer term use, will the NT Government consider selling it?

Subject to further negotiations with the Australian Government.

10. If Defence lock into a long term lease for military accommodation, will there be a claw back clause in the lease should another pandemic emergency arise?

Subject to further negotiations with the Australian Government.