



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 140

WRITTEN QUESTION

J Davis to the Minister for Logistics and Infrastructure, Hon William Yan MLA:

Middle Arm

1. The Department of Logistics and Infrastructure stated recently that ‘with the current model of equity investment, the Territory is expected to make a positive return on investment and pay back the funds with interest. This means the Territory will need to draw down on its self-generated revenue, which in turn will make it more difficult and costly to comprehensively develop the precinct.’

Please advise whether:

- a. the Federal investment in Middle Arm is equity based and the Territory is expected to pay it back with interest.
 - b. the NT Government will manage to pay back this investment without committing its own revenue.
 - c. the NT government has approached the Federal Government to ask for the federal investment to be given as a grant.
 - i. If so, what was its response?
2. The details of the Middle Arm Stage 2 Business Case published in an ABC article published on 13 December 2023 reveal that the NT Government is looking for an extra \$3.5 billion in capital expenditure on top of the \$1.5 billion already committed by the federal government. Where will this money come from?
 - a. Has the NT Government approached the Federal Government or the Coalition to ask them to cover the whole cost of the project? What was the federal government’s response?
 - b. If not, does the NT Government intend to approach the Federal Government or the Coalition to ask them to cover the whole cost of the project?
 3. With regards to an ABC article published on Monday 14 April 2025:
 - a. Does the NT government have the Federal Government support for Middle Arm or not?
 - b. In February last year, the Stage 3 Business case for Middle Arm submitted to Infrastructure Australia was considered but not accepted for evaluation. Why was the case not accepted?

- c. Please provide a copy of the rejected Stage 3 Business case for Middle Arm along with comments from Infrastructure Australia and any communications explaining why it was rejected?
- d. Is it correct that the Stage 2 Business case revealed a best case scenario 1.06 cost benefit ratio for the preferred program for the Middle Arm project?
- e. When will the Environmental Impact Statement for Middle Arm be released?
- f. What is the new timeline for construction at Middle Arm?