

Question No: 113

Question: Australia Asia Landbridge

Date: 12/05/92

Member: Mr EDE

To: MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Have any preliminary or detailed studies been made of the suitability of the following sites as possible future locations for the wharf and container terminal proposed in the Australia Asia landbridge concept -

- (a) East Arm, Darwin Harbour; and
- (b) Bynoe Harbour.

2. If these studies were conducted, what were the results.

3. What water depths would be available at the following -

- (a) possible wharf sites;
- (b) the region within 500 and 1000 m of possible wharf sites; and
- (c) the approach channels to possible wharf sites.

4. What dredging or other physical works would be required at each of the possible sites considered.

ANSWER

1. A number of feasibility studies have identified potential sites for relocation of Darwin's port facilities, a container terminal and the establishment of other industries requiring access to deep water. These studies have looked at various sites within Darwin and Bynoe Harbours in addition to sites on the coast in the vicinity of Darwin.

More detailed studies of the East Arm area are to commence shortly to refine the scope of works necessary to establish the Australia Asia landbridge.

2. In general terms the feasibility studies have confirmed that there are a number of sites which have potential for development to serve various purposes which require ocean access. This includes East Arm and Bynoe Harbour.

3. No detailed plans of any particular site have been finalised. However, the requirement is to establish a wharf which can berth and accommodate vessels with a draft of 12.5 m.

4. The physical works and dredging (if any) associated with the East Arm proposal are to be more closely examined in the studies referred to in the answer to question 1.