



Northern
Territory
Government

DEPARTMENT OF THE CHIEF MINISTER

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The Committee Secretary
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

**RE; COX PENINSULA REMEDIATION PROJECT – SUBMISSION BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE TO THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS**

I refer to the reference dated 3 December 2014 by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works to enquire into and report on the Cox Peninsula Remediation Project.

As outlined in the submission by the Department of Finance, the land the subject of the proposed remediation works is subject to a land claim under the provisions of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act*. The land claim is the longest running land claim in the Northern Territory, and perhaps Australia.

In December 2000, the Aboriginal Land Commissioner recommended that the majority of the land claimed, including the land the subject of the proposed Cox Peninsula Remediation project, be granted as Aboriginal land.

Since that time, the Northern Territory has been working with the Northern Land Council and the Commonwealth to address items of detriment, so that the land claim can be resolved. One of the key issues for resolution is the remediation which is outlined in the Department of Finance submission.

Whilst the Northern Territory would have preferred for the land claim to be finalised in the manner agreed between the Northern Territory, the Northern Land Council and Traditional Owners, with land being granted to or for the benefit of Traditional Owners, with an appropriate lease arrangement back to the Commonwealth to enable remediation works to occur, the Northern Territory strongly supports the remediation project and welcomes the proposal by the Department of Finance to undertake the remediation works as described in the Department of Finance submission.

The Territory notes in preparation of the detailed business case for the Cox Peninsula remediation project, the Department of Finance consulted broadly in the Northern Territory, including with the Northern Land Council and Traditional Owners. The

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Territory also notes that the Department of Finance has engaged the Kenbi Rangers to undertake some of the work in the preparation of the detailed business case, and to ensure ongoing security of the site.

In carrying out the works and the ongoing monitoring, the Territory would like to see, to the maximum extent possible, opportunities being provided to both Indigenous businesses and organisations, and Territory businesses generally, to participate in the project and to demonstrate that they have the skills and capacity to undertake the works.

Yours sincerely



ALASTAIR SHIELDS
Director-General

22 January 2015