

Questions on notice – Larrakia Development Corporation

1. You said in your submission that you welcome the \$1.5 billion of federal funding, yet numerous Larrakia people have highlighted how this funding was committed before any consultation with Larrakia, and without consent. Do you have an issue with the NT Government accepting federal funding for a project before there has been any formal engagement with Traditional custodians in relation to the project?
2. You are advising the government on this project but also stand to benefit from it going ahead. How are you managing any potential, perceived or actual conflicts of interest arising from this?
3. In your response to Mr Fejo's submission, you outline the events around INPEX's destruction of sacred sites and ancient milkwood and bloodwood trees. You state that the No Go Zone that was put in place was lifted and that works proceeded. In your comments on this you did not explicitly state whether or not the trees were in fact destroyed. Can you please clarify for us whether these trees were in fact destroyed by INPEX?
4. Given these past practices of the Northern Territory Government and the companies involved in Middle Arm, how confident are you that they will now act in good faith and genuinely engage with Larrakia peoples?
5. What is the salary of the CEO, and other executives of LDC?
6. What is the value of the Larrakia Development Trust?
7. How much have you estimated that the Larrakia Energy contract will make in returns?
8. In the last financial year, what percentage of your revenue went to the community versus staff salaries?
9. What percentage of the returns from this project do you estimate will go to the community, versus paying the salaries of staff and other costs?

10 May 2024

MASDP SENATE INQUIRY
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM SENATOR LIDIA THORPE

1. The Northern Territory Government commenced 'engagement' with Larrakia organisations two years after it has started planning the MASDP. No consultation with Larrakia, in relation to Federal funding for the MASDP, has occurred to date. Investment in the Northern Territory is welcome, but the lack of visibility concerning the funding agreement remains a concern to Larrakia organisations and families.
2. I am not advising the Northern Territory Government on the MASDP. I represent the interests of the Larrakia Development Corporation, as Trustee for the Larrakia Development Trust, of which all Larrakia families and beneficiaries.
3. Following consideration of Mr. Fejo's notification of the bloodwood tree and native fowl nest by the Larrakia Heritage Management Executive Committee, the tree and nest were removed as part of the Gas Export Pipeline construction by INPEX. The Larrakia Development Corporation is not aware of the destruction of any Larrakia sacred sites within the Ichthys project footprint during the construction phase. The Larrakia Development Corporation is also not aware of the presence of three (3) Milkwood trees at this site either.
4. I am sceptical of any government or industry acting in good faith with Aboriginal people and communities. Relationships take a long time to establish and there are no guarantees that Larrakia will be in a net positive position with respect to any opportunities that may present themselves regarding the MASDP, or development on Larrakia Country more generally. The resource sector in the NT has a below par level of engagement with Aboriginal people. The NT and Federal Government handling of the MASDP has also been lacking as highlighted above.
5. My salary is \$260,000 pa.

6. In the financial year ended 30 June 2023, the Larrakia Development Trust was valued at \$30.4M. This value is predominantly made up of land holdings.
7. The Larrakia Energy proposal is subject to several market, government and economic factors that are still being navigated. As such, we are unable to estimate the level of returns at this stage.
8. In the financial year ended 30 June 2023, total revenue from contracts reported per the LDC's Special Purpose Report financial statements was \$3.1m and gross profit from trading was \$1.13m. The Trust was also in receipt of other revenue from investment and grants.

For the same financial year LDC employee expenses paid were \$1.87m, and payments to Larrakia people through the Distributions policy during the year were \$106k. The Larrakia and other Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander employment rate for this period was 68% of total workforce or \$1.27m of total employee expenses.

9. I am unable to answer this question (see question seven above), however, consistent with its mandate, the LDC will work to ensure that benefits flow back to all nine Larrakia families through the Larrakia Development Trust including employment & training for Larrakia and other Aboriginal people, and sub-contracting opportunities for other Larrakia businesses.

Yours sincerely,

Nigel Browne
CEO
Larrakia Development Corporation