

## Senate Environment and Communications References Committee: Middle Arm Industrial Precinct

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### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE: Senator Thorpe 26/4/2024

**Question 1:** *The Chief Minister stated that consent from Traditional Custodians is not required for the Middle Arm Precinct because Larrakia peoples do not hold land rights over the region. Do First Peoples require formal recognition under land rights legislation to be engaged in development projects on their land?*

#### Response:

While formal recognition under land rights legislation, such as the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* and the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1976 (Cth)*, can establish a legal requirement for engaging with First Nations people on development projects, it is not the only basis for doing so. In the case of the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct (MASDP), the absence of formally recognised land rights means that formal consent from Traditional Owners may not be legally required for the project.

However, adhering to international standards such as Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) is considered best practice for ethical engagement with First Nations communities. Although legal requirements for consent are absent in this instance, the Northern Territory (NT) Government is committed to engaging with the Larrakia Traditional Owners according to FPIC principles.

Under the *Environment Protection Act 2019 (NT)* and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)*, proponents must conduct meaningful consultation with First Nations people who may be affected by the project. This includes listening to their views, documenting their knowledge, and addressing their cultural, social and economic values and interests related to the project.

While formal recognition under land rights legislation may not be necessary to engage First Nations people in the development of MASDP, the NT Government's adherence to FPIC principles and meaningful engagement are essential for fostering respectful and collaborative relationships with Larrakia Traditional Owners. The NT Government's commitment to these principles aims to ensure the Larrakia Traditional Owners' voices and interests are heard and respected throughout the development process.

NT Government  
Contact:

Louise McCormick, NT  
Infrastructure Commissioner

Phone:

**Question 2:** Can you please outline all legislative and regulatory requirements for First Nations engagement and involvement in decision making that is required for the Middle Arm project, including through Northern Territory legislation (i.e. EPA, planning and development, sacred sites) and federally (i.e. EPBC, Infrastructure Australia)? Please provide an assessment of how these requirements have been adhered to, including how engagement with First Peoples has met mandated timelines.

**Response:**

The Middle Arm Sustainable Development (MASDP) project must comply with several legislative and regulatory requirements related to First Nations engagement and involvement in decision-making, as set out in both Northern Territory (NT) and Commonwealth legislation.

NT legislation and regulatory requirements

Under the *Environment Protection Act 2019* (NT) (EP Act), proponents are required to conduct environmental impact assessments that include potential impacts on cultural heritage. This necessitates consultation with First Nations people to assess such impacts. The NT Government plans to assess MASDP as a strategic proposal under the EP Act and the *Environment Protection Regulations 2020* (NT), which entails public consultation throughout the strategic assessment process.

Best practice is for proponents to follow the guidance material issued under the EP Act, which includes an expectation to consult with affected communities, including First Nations communities, in a culturally appropriate manner. Additionally, proponents must address First Nations' values and the rights and interests of First Nations communities in relation to areas that may be impacted by the proposed action. The NT Environmental Protection Authority (NT EPA) provides guidance on stakeholder engagement and consultation, stating that Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) is an important consideration when consulting with Aboriginal communities.

The *Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989* (NT) requires proponents to obtain Authority Certificates to protect sacred sites and indemnify themselves against prosecution. This involves engagement with the Larrakia Traditional Owners and site custodians, working closely with the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) to ensure compliance.

The *Heritage Act 2011* (NT) requires proponents to obtain Work Approvals for any work on heritage places or objects. This process involves collaboration with relevant authorities and First Nations stakeholders to protect and manage heritage sites.

According to the *Planning Act 1999* (NT), development permits are necessary for various types of development within the project area. This requires engagement with First Nations people to address cultural and environmental concerns and obtain necessary permits.

The Territory Benefit Policy (2019) encourages project proponents to consider the capabilities of the local industry and workforce, including the need for engagement with First Nations people to enhance local benefit outcomes.

Proponents may also need groundwater extraction or waste discharge licenses under the *Water Act 1992* (NT) depending on project activities. This necessitates consideration of potential impacts on water resources and engagement with First Nations stakeholders if applicable.

Similarly, the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998* (NT) may require licenses for activities involving the storage and handling of listed wastes, which can involve First Nations engagement.

#### Commonwealth legislation and regulatory requirements

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act) requires proponents to conduct assessments for matters of national environmental significance. As part of this assessment, potential impacts on First Nations' heritage and cultural values may be considered.

The Bilateral Agreement between the NT and Commonwealth provides for the assessment of the impact of actions in MASDP on matters of national environmental significance. The agreed Program, endorsed by the Commonwealth Environment Minister, is prepared by the NT Department of Infrastructure, Planning, and Logistics (DIPL). The agreement operates as a substitute for the usual approvals process under the EPBC Act for controlled actions that would have a significant impact on matters of national environmental significance.

Infrastructure Australia's assessment framework does not mandate engagement with First Nations people. However, it does request evidence of broader stakeholder engagement.

#### Assessment of compliance and engagement

Given these processes are still underway, compliance and engagement is ongoing. However, to date, the NT Government has taken measures to adhere to the legislative and regulatory requirements for engaging with First Nations people. Engagement timelines have generally been met by involving First Nations people in decision-making processes through consultation and collaboration.

NT Government  
Contact:

Louise McCormick, NT  
Infrastructure Commissioner

Phone:

**Question 3:** *If the NT Government knows it does not require consent from Larrakia peoples for the Middle Arm project, and acknowledges it has not been obtained, are you misleading the public by stating in your submission that you are 'committed to a Larrakia led approach, adhering to the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent throughout the life of the project'?*

**Response:**

No.

NT Government  
Contact:

Louise McCormick, NT  
Infrastructure Commissioner

Phone:

**Question 4:** *Free, prior and informed consent is defined by the United Nations and Australian Human Rights Commission, and in practice means that First Nations communities must be given the opportunity to make well-informed decisions in a culturally appropriate manner, that is free from coercion and sufficiently in advance of approvals or commencement. Does the NT Government accept this internationally recognised definition?*

**Response:**

Yes.

NT Government  
Contact:

Louise McCormick, NT  
Infrastructure Commissioner

Phone:

**Question 5:** *Free, prior and informed consent is an important, internally-recognised legal concept for First Peoples. By describing the NT Government's actions as adhering to the principles of FPIC, are you misrepresenting this important legal concept?*

**Response:**

No.

NT Government  
Contact:

Louise McCormick, NT  
Infrastructure Commissioner

Phone:

**Question 6:** *When you provide information sessions to Larrakia families, are you telling them about the potential health impacts associated with the proposed projects, including the health impacts that come as a result of the desecration and destruction of Country?*

**Response:**

Engagements with Larrakia families take a listening-based approach. This involves answering questions and sharing information about the project (overview, intent, strategic assessment process and progress).

This has included discussions regarding the precinct's strategic goals, the key enabling infrastructure and the potential environmental impacts within the strategic assessment area which the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (the Department) is currently assessing (land, water, sea, air, social impacts). For example, the Department has talked about the proposed dredge channel and marine traffic and navigation scenarios modelled. The Department has used maps and images to support these discussions.

Feedback in these sessions has mainly centred on cultural matters that are important to Larrakia stakeholders, including protection of and access to culturally important places and activities. A summary of key feedback themes to date are presented in the Larrakia Newsletter provided in Appendix A.

The Department is funding a Larrakia-led cultural values survey. This involves a Cultural Heritage Working Group undertaking on-country activities to complete the survey and reporting. The survey will inform an overarching Larrakia-led Cultural Heritage Management Plan.

The Human Health Impact Assessment will form part of the draft EIS submission documentation and subsequent regulatory processes. The findings will be made available for comment during public exhibition.

The Human Health Impact Assessment studies the potential impacts on human health associated with air quality, the effects of dust, noise and vibration, risks from biting insects and navigation and safety risks.

As the project is currently in the planning and environmental assessment phase, further engagement with Larrakia families and organisations will be offered beyond the scope of the survey, Larrakia family meetings held, Cultural Consultative Committee meetings and involvement in other engagements extended from Larrakia organisations, for example, the Kenbi Reference Group and Darwin Daly Wagait Regional meetings.

The Department will offer further meetings with Larrakia family groups and Larrakia organisations to seek feedback on the draft EIS and draft MASDP program when published. We will seek feedback on the Supplementary EIS.

NT Government  
Contact:

Louise McCormick, NT  
Infrastructure Commissioner

Phone:

**Question 7:** Can you please provide a breakdown of all costs the NT Government has incurred in relation to public engagement and consultation for Middle Arm.

**Response:**

Communication and engagement is an essential element of precinct planning, design and the strategic assessment process.

The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics is following the IAP2 framework and the guidance for consultation provided by the NT and Commonwealth regulators to meet stakeholder consultation and engagement obligations.

All costs associated with the project have supported consultation with the community and a broad range of stakeholders.

Over the course of the project's engagement activities, which commenced in 2021, several platforms, materials and publications have been used to support the public engagement and consultation process. A summary of direct media costs and public engagement activities is provided below.

Activity / description	Material/ platform / media/ publication	Cost (\$)
<b>Direct Media</b>		
Social Media - NTG posts - various 'organic posts', nil cost	Facebook	\$0.00
Social media - NTG posts - Notification of community information stalls	Facebook	\$1,001.88
Newspaper - Notification of community information stalls	NT News The Australian	\$9,266.03
Radio - Notification of community information stalls	Hot FM 100, Territory FM 104.1, Mix FM 104.9	\$9,133.8
Newsletters - public and specific to Larrakia families	Online & Print (no paid media placement)	\$3,267.00
Editorial	Forge magazine	\$5,332.25
Editorial	Territory Q magazine	\$5,604.50
Editorial	Print	\$3,000.00
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>\$36,605.46</b>
<b>Public engagement and consultation</b>		
Project Overview - flyer	Print	\$654.50
Pull-up banner	Print	\$326.70
Maps	Print	\$638.00
Media releases - various	Online	\$0.00
Tablecloths - 2 x branded	Print	\$605.88
Contact cards	Print	\$137.50
Concept images and fly-through vision	Development	\$15,000.00
A-Frame - for direction to stalls	Signage	\$534.60
Pens and USBs	Stationary	\$2,002.00
PowerPoint - various presentations	Slides	\$0.00

Activity / description	Material/ platform / media/ publication	Cost (\$)
<b>Direct Media</b>		
Darwin show	Presence	\$0.00
Community stall venue bookings	Shopping centres	\$1,205.00
Facing North conference materials	Print	\$358.19
Content for newsletters – various industry groups and councils	Content supplied to share	\$0.00
Social Impact Assessment – consultation	Consultation	\$40,726.72
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$62,189.09</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$98,794.55</b>

Further description of the above activities is provided below.

Engagement and communication activities are ongoing to provide stakeholders with opportunities to learn about the proposed Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct (MASDP), share their views and provide comments on the project.

A consultation report is currently being finalised for the strategic assessment submission and will be made available during the public exhibition period of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

In addition to the multiple opportunities for community involvement as part of the strategic assessment process, the MASDP project team continues to be available on an ongoing basis to meet with interested stakeholders and provide information about the precinct through various digital and traditional channels including in-person, social media, newsletters, website, newspaper and radio.

Public stakeholder notifications have been targeted around key project milestones and to raise awareness of opportunities to seek community involvement including:

- the project's referral to the NT Environment Protection Authority (NTEPA) opportunity to comment on the draft terms of reference
- opportunity to participate in the values mapping on Have Your Say
- notification of information sessions with Larrakia families
- notification of community information stalls

**Examples below – copies of materials compiled in Appendix A**

#### **Notification of community information stalls**

- Three of the social media posts were 'sponsored' Facebook posts to increase audience reach and raise awareness of community stall presence.
- Total spend = \$1,001.88 (three 'sponsored' Facebook posts).

**NT Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics**  
 Published by Belamy Thornton @ belamythornton · 26 Sept 10

Work on the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct is progressing with new milestones occurring this week.

On 16th of the project for the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and the NT Government and open for public comment via [www.nt.gov.au/development/development](http://www.nt.gov.au/development/development).

The Territory Government has also signed a Strategic Agreement Agreement with the EPA to ensure the project meets the highest environmental standards for the environment.

These activities mark the first stage of assessment process. But will occur over the next 12 months to ensure the project meets the highest environmental standards for the environment.

The NT Government will continue to work with the EPA to ensure the project meets the highest environmental standards for the environment.

For more information about the project visit [www.nt.gov.au/development/development](http://www.nt.gov.au/development/development).

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**NT Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics**  
 Published by Belamy Thornton @ belamythornton · 26 Sept 10

Community information stalls to talk about the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct.

Come and talk to the team and tell us what you think about the project. The project will be a sustainable development ready to build a new precinct in Darwin Harbour and its surrounds. The new precinct will be a sustainable development ready to build a new precinct in Darwin Harbour and its surrounds. The new precinct will be a sustainable development ready to build a new precinct in Darwin Harbour and its surrounds.

Your feedback will be incorporated into reports as part of the Assessment for approval of the precinct.

Visit [www.nt.gov.au/development/development](http://www.nt.gov.au/development/development) to learn more.

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**NT Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics**  
 Published by Belamy Thornton @ belamythornton · 26 Sept 10

Sustainable outcomes and environmental protection of Darwin Harbour and surrounds are at the core of planning for the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct. We want to know how Territorians use and value the harbour and its catchment area. Visit [www.nt.gov.au/development/development](http://www.nt.gov.au/development/development) to complete a survey or drop a comment pin on the map.

Your feedback will help inform the social impact assessment for the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct's Strategic Environmental Assessment.

For more information on the Middle Arm project, visit [www.nt.gov.au/development/development](http://www.nt.gov.au/development/development).

(The values mapping research is being conducted by independent consultants and your comments can be made anonymously)

Globally strategic location • World-class resources • Advanced skills

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**NT Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics**  
 Published by Belamy Thornton @ belamythornton · 26 Sept 10

What do you love about Darwin Harbour? What do you worry about? As part of the social impact assessment for the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct, we want to know how Territorians use and value the harbour and its catchment area. Visit [www.nt.gov.au/development/development](http://www.nt.gov.au/development/development) to complete a survey or drop a comment pin on the map.

Your feedback will help inform the social impact assessment for the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct's Strategic Environmental Assessment.

For more information on the Middle Arm project, visit [www.nt.gov.au/development/development](http://www.nt.gov.au/development/development).

(The values mapping research is being conducted by independent consultants and your comments can be made anonymously)

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### MIDDLE ARM Sustainable Development Precinct

Talk to the team at a community stall

<b>CASHIWINA SQUARE</b> WED 21 SEPTEMBER 3PM - 5PM <i>Outside of Nevea and Pandora</i>	<b>PALMERSTON MARKETS</b> FRI 14 OCTOBER 4PM - 7PM
<b>PIRARAB MARKETS</b> SAT 24 SEPTEMBER 8AM - 11AM	<b>SMITH STREET MALL</b> FRI 21 OCTOBER 12PM - 2PM <i>Near the Galleries</i>
<b>NIGHTCLIFF MARKETS</b> SUNDAY 2 OCTOBER 8AM - 11AM	<b>COOLALINGA CENTRAL</b> THURS 27 OCTOBER 4PM - 6PM <i>Near main entrance</i>
<b>GATEWAY SHOPPING CENTRE</b> WED 5 OCTOBER 4PM - 6PM <i>Outside Hopkins Jewellers</i>	<b>BERRY SPRINGS MARKET</b> SUN 30 OCTOBER 8AM - 11AM





## Social media example

 NT Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics  
January 7 · 🌐

📍 Project pop-up stalls 🌟 The Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct team will be at the following locations to share more information and listen to your views.  
If you're around, drop by to learn more and have your say.

🌐 For more information, go to <https://middlearmprecinct.nt.gov.au/...> See more



**MIDDLE ARM**  
Sustainable Development  
**PRECINCT**

### Talk to the team at a pop-up stall

<b>COOLALINGA CENTRAL</b> Friday 12 January and Friday 23 February 11:00am - 2:00pm	<b>GATEWAY SHOPPING CENTRE</b> Wednesday 17 January and Monday 19 February 11:00am - 2:00pm
<b>CASUARINA SQUARE</b> Monday 15 January and Wednesday 21 February 11:00am - 2:00pm	<b>SMITH STREET MALL DARWIN CITY</b> Thursday 18 January and Friday 16 February 11:00am - 2:00pm

 | 

Social media and examples of community stall set-up (shopping centre and markets)

 NT Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics  
January 15 · 🌐

📍 Project pop-up stall at Casuarina 🌟 The Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct team are visiting Casuarina shopping centre from 11am-2pm today.

Make sure to say hello if you're nearby – We're here to share more information and listen to your views.

🔗 For more information, visit <https://middlearmprecinct.nt.gov.au/>



# MIDDLE ARM Sustainable Development PRECINCT

Talk to the team at a community stand

<b>CASUARINA SQUARE</b> <b>WED 21 SEPTEMBER</b> <b>3PM – 5PM</b> <i>Outside of Mecca and Pandora</i>	 <b>DONE</b>	<b>PALMERSTON MARKETS</b> <b>FRI 14 OCTOBER</b> <b>4PM – 7PM</b>
<b>PARAP MARKETS</b> <b>SAT 24 SEPTEMBER</b> <b>8AM – 11AM</b>	 <b>DONE</b>	<b>SMITH STREET MALL</b> <b>FRI 21 OCTOBER</b> <b>12PM – 2PM</b> <i>Near the Galleria</i>
<b>NIGHTCLIFF MARKETS</b> <b>SUNDAY 2 OCTOBER</b> <b>8AM – 11AM</b>		<b>COOLALINGA CENTRAL</b> <b>THURS 27 OCTOBER</b> <b>4PM – 6PM</b> <i>Near main entrance</i>
<b>GATEWAY SHOPPING CENTRE</b> <b>WED 5 OCTOBER</b> <b>4PM – 6PM</b> <i>Outside Hoskings Jewellers</i>		<b>BERRY SPRINGS MARKET</b> <b>SUN 30 OCTOBER</b> <b>8AM – 11AM</b>

 **NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT** |  **THE TERRITORY**  
BOUNDLESS POSSIBLE

# Newspaper (NT News and the Australian notifications)

- Total= \$9,266.03

of a croc lurking in the shallows a metre or two off a gorgeous beach," he said.

images, pay rates have dipped savagely these past 10 or 15 years," he said.

Mr Daffey's photos can be found via his Instagram, @markdaffey.



Lonely Planet and Getty Images photographer Mark Daffey snapped this photo of a croc beneath the surface of a Port Essington beach in the NT. East Arnhem Land's official Facebook page listed the picture as its favourite image of the Year. Picture: Mark Daffey/ @markdaffey

**MIDDLE ARM**  
Sustainable Development  
**PRECINCT**

## Community information stands

The project team for the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct will be visiting the following locations to share more information about the Precinct plans and to hear what you have to say.

**COOLALINGA CENTRAL**  
Dates: Friday 12 January 2024 and Friday 23 February 2024  
Time: 11:00am - 2:00pm

**CASUARINA SQUARE**  
Dates: Monday 15 January 2024 and Wednesday 21 February 2024  
Time: 11:00am - 2:00pm

**GATEWAY SHOPPING CENTRE**  
Dates: Wednesday 17 January 2024 and Monday 19 February 2024  
Time: 11:00am - 2:00pm

**SMITH STREET MALL, DARWIN CITY**  
Dates: Thursday 18 January 2024 and Friday 16 February 2024  
Time: 11:00am - 2:00pm

The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics is leading the design and strategic assessment process for the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct. Listening to the community is an important part of this.

For more information about the project and the community stand dates, visit <https://middlearmprecinct.nt.gov.au/>

## Gold Coast invite for the Royals

The Gold Coast plans to roll out the red carpet for King Charles and Queen Camilla. Mayor Tom Tate has written to Buckingham Palace officially inviting the King and his consort to return to the city he visited in 2018.

The couple has announced their tour but are yet to name the locations.

"The King and Queen enjoyed our city during the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, so having them revisit during an Australia tour would be a great privilege," the staunch monarchist said.

"Once an official visit is confirmed, I look forward to formally inviting Their Majesties back to the Gold Coast."

Mr Tate has also suggested naming a waterfront or park after the King in tribute to his environmental concerns.



Queen Camilla and King Charles visiting Kenya. Picture: Getty

**Sierra Haigh**

The Chief Minister's plan for the Territory will focus on crime, costing businesses' rest and employment.

Bya Lawler will share her vision for the NT at 11am Monday as Territory Labor gears up for its 2024 election campaign.

"I am not here to cruise through to the August election," her speech reads.

"I am here because I want more from myself, and more from my team, so that we can position the Territory for the future it deserves - for the future it needs."

Ms Lawler rose to the NT's top job in December after Ngunichiff MLA Natasha Pyles resigned.

Ms Lawler said her main focus was on employment and building more pathways to jobs.

"What we need is people who have the skills, ability and the desire to work, we need to see all Territoryans working," she said.

"We cannot have more generations of Territoryans not working."

Part of her plan for boosting the NT's employment rate falls on getting more Aboriginal Territoryans into jobs.

Ms Lawler said she wanted to see more remote Territoryans working in their communities to grow wealth, improve health outcomes, to get kids to school and to "truly close the gap in Aboriginal outcomes".

"We'll only know we've arrived when everybody working at the health clinic is Aboriginal, when every cop working in a remote community is Aboriginal, when the pilot that flies in and out is Aboriginal, when the staff working in the school are all Aboriginal," she said.

"I'm not proposing an Aboriginal-only policy - I am saying the numbers need massive improvement."

As Territoryans continue calling out for relief from crime, Ms Lawler said she would be announcing additional youth facilities across the NT.

She said she would also address a co-responder model and the Territory Safety Divisions.

"Too many generations of people are not working, and when that happens, crime flourishes," she said.

"People are hurt by crime. It hurts business. It hurts families."

"We are tackling crime, and we are tackling it the right way. That means looking beyond short-term political fixes."

Among her slew of announcements, Ms Lawler is also expected to unveil the new Territory Services portal to help Territoryans "get on with their lives and build new businesses".

She said the one-stop digital "gateway" will simplify more than 60 online transactions for businesses, permits, driver licences, trade and professional licences, liquor licences and hospitality.

## Pretoria's leftists eye victory

Finbrand leftist politician Julius Malema has accused the ruling ANC of neglecting South Africa's ill as he launched his party's electoral campaign ahead of a hotly contested poll that could cost the ruling party its parliamentary majority.

Through crippling power cuts (known as loadshedding), South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa is continuing to "kill our people", he said on the weekend as he unveiled the party's theme: "Our land and jobs now. Stop loadshedding".

The Economic Freedom Fighters leader also accused the African National Congress of "economic apartheid".

In a country plagued by an energy crisis, lackluster economy and high unemployment, some 27.5 million South Africans will vote for a new parliament, who will then vote in a new president. The election is to be held on a date between May and August.

"We want political power to use it decisively," Malema declared.

The country's official opposition, the Democratic Alliance, which has struggled to oust Mr Ramaphosa, has formed a coalition with several other groups, but it has failed to join forces with the EFF, citing stark differences.

**MIDDLE ARM**  
Sustainable Development  
**PRECINCT**

## Community information stands

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For more information about the project and the community stand dates, visit <https://middlearmprecinct.nt.gov.au/>

### **Radio ad (Hot FM 100, Territory FM 104.1 and Mix FM 104.9)**

- Total= \$9,133.80

#### Example script

“The project team for the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct will be visiting Coolalinga Central, Casuarina Square, Gateway Shopping Centre and Smith Street Mall this January and February to share more information about the Precinct plans and to hear what you have to say.

The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics is leading the design and strategic assessment process for the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct. Listening to the community is an important part of this.

Drop-by and talk the team. For more information about the project and the community stand dates, visit <https://middlearmprecinct.nt.gov.au/> ”

## Example community newsletter



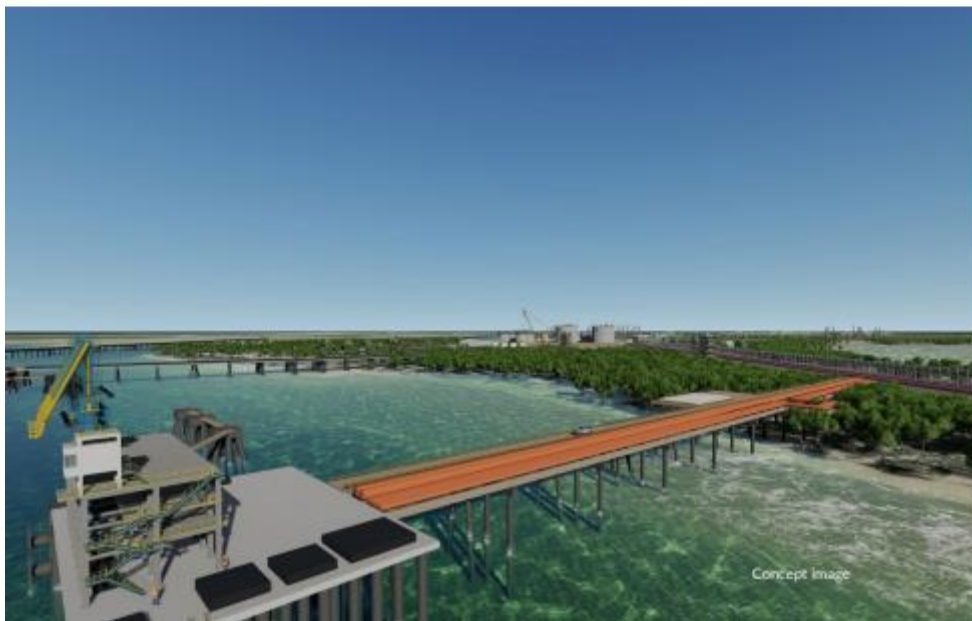
This newsletter has been created to share key information and updates about the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct with stakeholders.

The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL) has been working to understand what the Precinct could look like and how it could work, including industrial scenarios (who might go there).

Through consultation with stakeholders, strategic planning, environmental assessment, and economic modelling, the project expects to create around 20,000 local jobs and secure a sustainable future for the region.

In this edition, we cover:

- frequently asked questions
- sustainability principles
- upcoming engagement opportunities
- the Strategic Environmental Assessment process and studies to date
- what you can expect next



## Editorials

- Forge magazine article in collaboration with Infrastructure NT and Investment Territory <https://forge.partica.online/forge/vol-8-no-1/flipbook/40/>
- Total= \$5,332.25

# Future focused

Investing in strategic infrastructure in the Northern Territory builds on our natural strengths and comparative advantages. It is critical to attracting private sector investment, creating jobs, growing our capability and capacity for growth and boosting our skills and expertise.

The Northern Territory Infrastructure Plan and Pipeline will accelerate growth and investment in the Territory.

### MIDDLE ARM SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRECINCT

- Transforming Middle Arm into a sustainable 'development ready' industrial precinct, with deep water port access in Darwin Harbour.
- From the planning and development process through to the industries it will attract, this project is a blueprint for the future of Australian industry – sustainable, modern and high-tech.

### DARWIN SHIP LIFT

- Darwin's Ship Lift common user facility will enable the maintenance and servicing of Defence and Australian Border Force vessels, along with commercial and private vessels, including from the oil, gas and marine industries.
- This Ship Lift will be the only facility between Perth and Cairns where vessels can be maintained out of water.

### CIVIC AND STATE SQUARE REVITALISATION

- The Civic and State Square revitalisation reimagines the green heart of Darwin city into a welcoming and interactive space.
- The project includes the construction of the State Square Art Gallery and development of Liberty Square.



For more information visit [invest.nt.gov.au](https://invest.nt.gov.au)



- Total= \$5,604.50



*Interest in the Northern Territory's visionary precinct at Middle Arm is growing among global investors eager to shape a sustainable, modern and high-tech future.*

The multi-billion-dollar Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct on the outskirts of Darwin will be a blueprint for the future of Australian master-planned industrial hubs.

The Territory Government is determined to create thousands of well-paid jobs and diversify the economy while protecting the Top End's cultural heritage and near-pristine harbour.

"We intend to protect the harbour for generations to come," says

Infrastructure NT Commissioner Louise McCormick

She says extensive consultation with the community over the development will continue.

"The community will be kept informed and have a chance to provide feedback."

Powered by renewables and lower-emissions energy, the precinct is being developed to attract industries that reflect what the Territory's future economy will look like, including hydrogen, carbon capture, natural gas, advanced manufacturing and minerals processing.

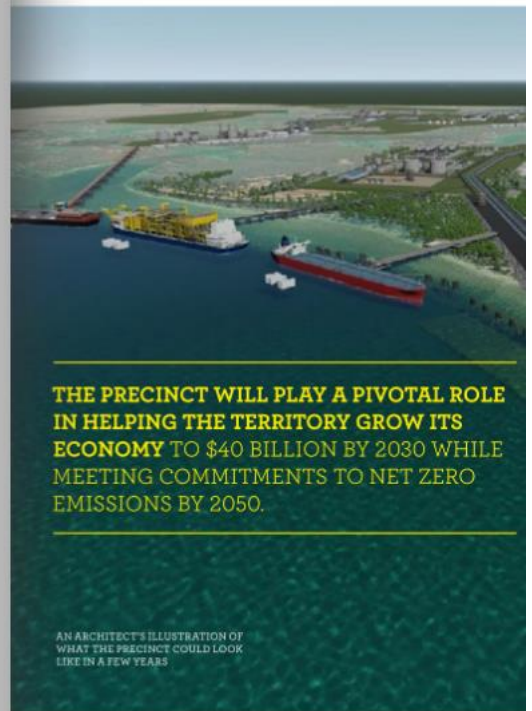
The Territory Government has issued "do not deal" commitments to five proponents over specific parcels of land at the precinct.

The commitments mean that their preferred sites in Middle Arm will be set aside for up to 12 months to provide them with confidence and certainty to continue developing their proposals.

The proponents are:

- TEH2, 100 percent owned by Total Eren - renewable energy: the global independent power producer is proposing to develop a green hydrogen production facility using solar energy with the capability of producing more than 80,000 tonnes of renewables-based hydrogen per annum for domestic and export potential.
- Fortescue Future Industries - renewable energy: the global green energy company is proposing to develop a green

TERRITORYQ 23



**THE PRECINCT WILL PLAY A PIVOTAL ROLE IN HELPING THE TERRITORY GROW ITS ECONOMY TO \$40 BILLION BY 2030 WHILE MEETING COMMITMENTS TO NET ZERO EMISSIONS BY 2050.**

AN ARCHITECT'S ILLUSTRATION OF WHAT THE PRECINCT COULD LOOK LIKE IN A FEW YEARS

hydrogen hub made up of green hydrogen and green ammonia production and export facilities.

- Tivan - critical minerals: is proposing to produce vanadium oxides through application of innovative downstream processing technology using feedstock sourced from the Speewah and Mount Peake projects; titanium dioxide and iron oxide also produced as by-products. Tivan is also working to facilitate an industrialisation pathway for vanadium redox flow batteries.
- Tamboran Resources - natural gas: a lower CO2 emissions liquefied natural gas export facility. Gas from the facility will play an important role in the decarbonisation plans of our neighbours and trading partners in Asia and beyond.

- Avenira - critical minerals: is proposing a lithium-ferro-phosphate cathode manufacturing facility, which will manufacture precursor battery cathode materials from critical minerals, including phosphate sourced from the Wonarah project in the Territory.

Collectively, these projects represent tens of billions of dollars in capital investment.

The companies can now progress their facility designs, engineering work, pre-feasibility studies and environmental impact assessment studies.

They will be required to comply with all the conditions and limits set by strategic environmental assessment (SEA) and approval process for the precinct, which is underway.

24 TERRITORYQ



## Social Impact Assessment – preliminary draft

- The Precinct is being assessed as a strategic proposal under both the [NT Environment Protection Act 2019](#) and the [Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999](#).
- The Strategic Social Impact Assessment report is part of the environmental impact assessment process under NT and Commonwealth legislation.
- The report is designed to identify the environmental, social and economic impacts of a project at an early stage in project planning and concept design. By doing so, any potential impacts can be reduced, the project can be shaped to suit the local environment and both environmental (including social) and economic benefits can be achieved.
- In line with the regulatory process and commitment to best-practice, a Strategic Social Impact Assessment will be formally submitted as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment to assess the potential risks (impacts) and benefits (opportunities) for community and the economy.
- Currently, DIPL is preparing the MASDP program, which includes the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the strategic proposal.
- The purpose of the draft EIS is to provide a comprehensive assessment of potential environmental impacts associated with the Precinct. This draft EIS provides details of the studies undertaken, potential impacts associated with the MASDP and assesses the likely effectiveness of the measures proposed to avoid and mitigate impacts.
- The Strategic Social Impact Assessment report, along with all other impact assessments are currently in draft form and subject to a regulatory process.
- The preliminary draft Strategic Social Impact Assessment has been informed through the collection of quantitative and qualitative data and social research through a series of workshops with stakeholders, including a working group. The preliminary and draft information presented is yet to be finalised.
- The Strategic Social Impact Assessment report, along with other studies and detailed technical reports, will be made available for public comment once the draft EIS is formally submitted.
- Management of any risks associated with the precinct will be addressed through various commitments, as part of the MASDP program. The hierarchy of avoid, mitigate, offset will be applied to all known impacts, in accordance with the requirements of the NT *Environment Protection Act 2019* and the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, and associated Terms of Reference (ToR). The ToR is publicly available to view here <https://midlearmprecinct.nt.gov.au/contacts/strategic-assessment>

NT Government  
Contact:

Louise McCormick, NT  
Infrastructure Commissioner

Phone:

**Question 8:** Can you please provide copies of all materials that you are providing to Larrakia families in information sessions, including any written materials, graphics, videos, or otherwise? Please include estimated budgets for these sessions.

**Response:**

In consultation with the Cultural Consultative Committee (Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation, Larrakia Development Corporation, Northern Land Council and Gwalwa Daraniki Association Inc.), the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL) offered a series of meetings with Larrakia families in September and October 2023.

**MIDDLE ARM SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRECINCT**  
**Larrakia family information sessions**

<b>FAMILY GROUP</b>	<b>WHEN</b>	<b>WHERE</b>
<i>Tommy Lyons Group</i>	Friday 22 September 2023 @10am-12pm	Kulaluk GDA Offices
<i>Batcho</i>	Saturday 23 September 2023 @9am-11am	Charles Darwin University – Casuarina Campus Building Green 2 University Pirates Club Off Lakeside Drive, Brinkin.
<i>Cubillo</i>	Saturday 23 September 2023 @11:30am-1:30pm	Charles Darwin University – Casuarina Campus Building Green 2 University Pirates Club Off Lakeside Drive, Brinkin.
<i>Browne/Talbot</i>	Saturday 23 September 2023 @2pm-4pm	Charles Darwin University – Casuarina Campus Building Green 2 University Pirates Club Off Lakeside Drive, Brinkin.
<i>McLennan/Johns</i>	Saturday 23 September 2023 @4:30pm-6:30pm	Charles Darwin University – Casuarina Campus Building Green 2 University Pirates Club Off Lakeside Drive, Brinkin.
<i>Shepherd</i>	Saturday 7 October 2023 @9am-11am	Charles Darwin University – Casuarina Campus Building Green 2 University Pirates Club Off Lakeside Drive, Brinkin.
<i>Fejo</i>	Saturday 7 October 2023 @11:30am-1:30pm	Charles Darwin University – Casuarina Campus Building Green 2 University Pirates Club Off Lakeside Drive, Brinkin.
<i>Roman/Danks</i>	Saturday 7 October 2023 @2pm-4pm	Charles Darwin University – Casuarina Campus Building Green 2 University Pirates Club Off Lakeside Drive, Brinkin.
<i>Raymond/Mills</i>	Saturday 7 October 2023 @4:30pm-6:30pm	Charles Darwin University – Casuarina Campus Building Green 2 University Pirates Club Off Lakeside Drive, Brinkin.

The overarching goal of the meetings was to undertake meaningful and tailored engagement with Larrakia families to build ongoing relationships and outcomes in relation to the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct.

Each session (2 hours duration, at the location and dates suggested by the Committee and Larrakia stakeholders) included listening, sharing of information, time for questions, and seeking advice, discussion, and opportunities to provide feedback throughout.

As the project is currently in the environmental assessment phase, further ongoing engagement with Larrakia families will be undertaken beyond the scope of the initial Larrakia family meetings held. This includes the public exhibition of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the public exhibition of the Supplementary EIS, and DIPL has committed to fund a Larrakia-led Cultural Values Survey and the Cultural Heritage Working Group’s consideration of cultural values on Middle Arm with respect to the preparation of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan.

Following the family group engagements, a feedback themes summary report was provided to the Committee and a snapshot was included in the Larrakia families Newsletter.

The project team has also captured feedback from five Committee meetings and engagement opportunities extended from the Committee, including the Darwin Daly Wagait Regional meeting and Kenbi Reference Group meeting through the Northern Land Council.

## Approach

DIPL is following the stakeholder and community consultation requirements for the environmental assessment under the NT's *Environment Protection Act 2019* and the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

DIPL has sought regular advice from the Committee to ensure culturally appropriate consultations, sharing draft materials for input and review (examples include but not limited to newsletters, consultation report, videos for review), and takes a listening-based approach to all meetings and consultations.

Culturally appropriate ways to engage was determined through consultation with the Cultural Consultative Committee and feedback captured through meetings with Larrakia stakeholders during the project's planning phase ahead of these family group meetings.

- **Location:** An appropriate space to host the information sessions. The Cultural Consultative Committee advised that both suburb and city locations should be considered, and that booking the Pirate Rugby Facility has worked well in the past, including for recent meetings.
- **Timing:** The Cultural Consultative Committee advised that weekends are preferred. The project team are also committed to running alternative session times for those unable to attend, including afternoon/evening sessions on weekdays to accommodate for all stakeholders, including individuals.
- **Personnel:** Project team members, including the Project Director, environmental scientists and engineers were available to raise awareness and provide information about the project, answer questions, share their work and listen to the views of Larrakia families. The Communications and Engagement Manager recorded all feedback and helped to facilitate discussion.
- **Catering:** Food/drink provided. The hospitality expense provided catering for nine meetings for Larrakia families. Each session was two hours and refreshments were discussed in the planning for these sessions as a requirement with the Cultural Consultative Committee.
- **Transport:** DIPL offered to provide transport for those that required assistance. No requests were made for this.
- **Resources:**
  - Newsletter sent via the Cultural Consultative Committee networks to provide information before the sessions and to help promote the session details (Hardcopy and online).
  - A4 flyer and social media tiles were used to promote the meetings and to accompany Newsletter as an additional resource.
  - Printed maps.
  - HP tablet to record feedback.

- Power source and screen for PowerPoint with concept fly-through images and video to visually convey key messages, concepts, and information.
- Project Overview flyer.
- Pull-up banner.
- A-Frame Chalkboard as location signage.
- Trestle tables and chairs for seating.
- Stationary (pens, paper, post-its).

### Feedback:

- Initial feedback from Larrakia stakeholders was included in the Larrakia Newsletter (distributed as hardcopy, via email and talked through in meetings) and has been recorded for the strategic assessment and the Committee's record of opportunities includes the opportunities recorded from the Larrakia family group information sessions.
- The Department recognises further and ongoing engagement with Larrakia organisations and Larrakia families is a key part of precinct planning and design, ensuring their views are well understood and considered.
- The Department is in discussion with the Cultural Consultative Committee, including the Northern Land Council, to re-offer additional sessions for those who were unable to attend.
- Members of one Larrakia family group who attended an initial meeting in October 2023 requested to meet again with the MASDP project team on 5 February 2024.
- Discussions with the Northern Land Council's logistic support team to help facilitate additional meetings has been ongoing since October 2023, with latest correspondence received in April 2024 awaiting confirmation of dates.

### Budget

A summary of costs for the Larrakia family group meetings is provided below:

Item	Cost (\$)
Venue hire (23/09/23 and 7/10/23)	\$ 660.00
Catering (22/09, 23/09, 7/10/23 and 5/02/24)	\$ 3,237.45
Social Media - NTG and Larrakia organisation posts - various 'organic posts', nil cost	\$ 0.00
PowerPoint presentation, nil cost	\$ 0.00
Newsletters - printing	\$ 2,178.00
Project Overview flyer - printing	\$ 654.50
Maps - printing	\$ 638.00
A4 flyer, nil cost	\$ 0.00
Pull-up banner	\$ 326.70
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 7,694.65</b>

## Materials (Examples below – copies of all materials compiled in Appendix A)

### Notification of meetings with nine Larrakia family groups

- Notification of meetings shared with families two weeks in advance by Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation, Larrakia Development Corporation, Gwalwa Daraniki Association Incorporated and Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics. Materials provided to Northern Land Council.

### Social media

Social media posts were shared on owned (NT Government Facebook) and Larrakia organisation channels. These were organic posts (i.e. nil cost, with no 'sponsored' content)

Larrakia Nation  
September 7, 2023 · 🌐

Attention Larrakia Members & Families

Newsletter 📧 <https://larrakia.com/.../MASDP-Newsletter-Larrakia...>

Information Sessions 📧 <https://larrakia.com/.../MASDP-Information-Sessions...>

#larrakiafirst  
#larrakia

# Latest News

MIDDLE ARM SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRECINCT

## The project team for the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct would like to hear from Larrakia families.

Listening and responding to your questions, concerns and feedback during the Precinct planning phase will lead to better outcomes.

Come along to learn more, meet the project team and have your say.

Each session includes time for questions, discussion and an opportunity to share your feedback.

You don't need to RSVP - just drop by at your session time.

👍 11      2 comments   2 shares

👍 Like      💬 Comment      ➦ Share

View more comments

Author  
Larrakia Nation  
Reminder to all Larrakia Families 🙌

## Social media example

 Larrakia Development Corporation  
September 21, 2023 · 🌐

Larrakia Family meeting commence this Friday, Saturday and Sunday, with further meetings being held the following fortnight.

Be sure to check your family's meeting date and time.

The more Larrakia people who can attend these meeting and analyse the information that is presented, the better our families will be informed.

**MIDDLE ARM SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRECINCT**

### Information sessions for Larrakia families

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Each session includes time for questions, discussion and an

**Contacts**

**LARRAKIA REPRESENTATIVES**  
Your community contacts are:

**Gwealwa Daraniki Association Incorporated**  
p:08 8985 5300 | [info@gdant.org.au](mailto:info@gdant.org.au)

**Larrakia Development Corporation**  
p:08 8941 5763 | [info@larrakia.com.au](mailto:info@larrakia.com.au)

**Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation**  
p:08 8948 3733 | [info@larrakia.com](mailto:info@larrakia.com)

**Northern Land Council**  
p:08 8920 5300 | [invest@nlc.org.au](mailto:invest@nlc.org.au)

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**MIDDLE ARM SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRECINCT**

[contact.MASDP@nt.gov.au](mailto:contact.MASDP@nt.gov.au)

☎️ 08 8924 6420



### Larrakia family Information sessions



LARRAKIA FAMILY GROUP	WHEN	WHERE
<b>Tommy Lyons Group</b>	Friday 22 September 2023 @10am-12pm	Kulaluk GDA Offices
<b>Botcho</b>	Saturday 23 September 2023 @9am-11am	Charles Darwin University – Casuarina Campus Building Green 2 University Pirates Club Off Lakeside Drive, Brinkin (see map).
<b>Cubillo</b>	Saturday 23 September 2023 @11:30am-1:30pm	Charles Darwin University – Casuarina Campus Building Green 2 University Pirates Club Off Lakeside Drive, Brinkin (see map).
<b>Browne/Talbot</b>	Saturday 23 September 2023 @2pm-4pm	Charles Darwin University – Casuarina Campus Building Green 2 University Pirates Club Off Lakeside Drive, Brinkin (see map).
<b>McLennan/Johns</b>	Saturday 23 September 2023 @4:30pm-6:30pm	Charles Darwin University – Casuarina Campus Building Green 2 University Pirates Club Off Lakeside Drive, Brinkin (see map).
<b>...</b>	Saturday 7 October 2023	Charles Darwin University – Casuarina Campus Building Green 2 University

 Larrakia Development Corporation  
September 12, 2023 · 🌐

\*\*\*Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct\*\*\*

All Larrakia families, please note the upcoming meetings for the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct.... See more

👍 3

## Social media example

 NT Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics  
October 3 at 8:30 AM · 🌐

🗨️ The project team for the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct would like to hear from Larrakia families.

🕒 **WHEN:** The next initial information sessions are this Saturday 7 October 2023 at the following times for:

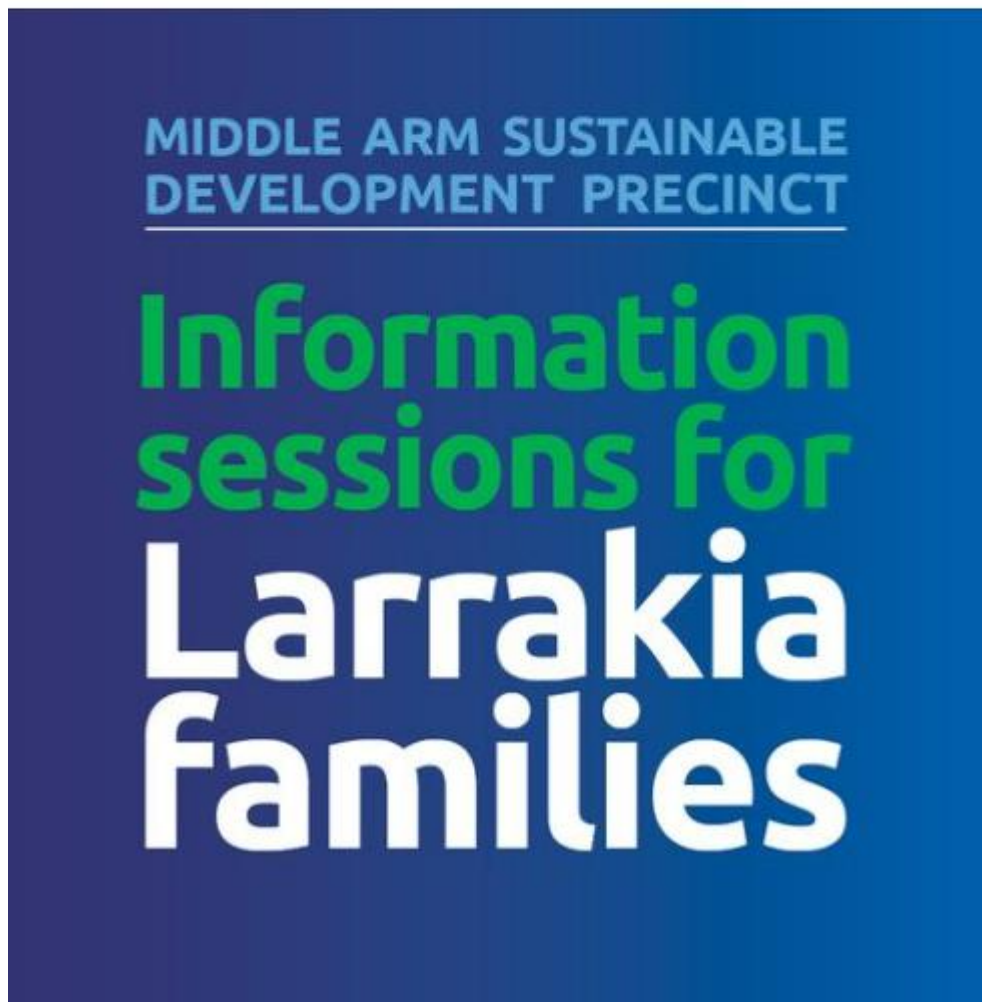
- Shepherd @9am-11am
- Fejo @11:30am-1:30pm
- Roman/Danks @2pm-4pm
- Raymond/Mills @4:30pm-6:30pm

📍 **WHERE:** University Pirates Rugby Union Football Club (Charles Darwin University – Casuarina Campus Building Green 2 University Pirates Club Off Lakeside Drive Brinkin).


Come along to learn more, meet the project team and have your say. You don't need to RSVP – just drop by at your session time.

🌐 For more information about the project, visit <https://middlearmprecinct.nt.gov.au/>

Larrakia Nation Larrakia Development Corporation Gwalwa Daraniki Association Inc. First Nations Radio First Nations Broadcasting Teabba - Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association



## Social media example



**Larrakia Development Corporation**  
October 6, 2023 · 🌐

...

\*\*\*\*Middle Arm Sustainability Precinct Development\*\*\*\*

We know we have shared this a few times, but we want to make sure ALL Larrakia are aware of these meetings.

Larrakia Family meetings will continue tomorrow, Saturday 7 October 2023.  
A couple of important things to do:

- \* Be sure to check and share your family's meeting date and time
- \* Participate in your family meeting
- \* Ask as many questions as you like and ask for as much information as you like so that you feel informed.

Lets get as many Larrakia people attend these information sessions as possible.  
The more Larrakia people who can attend these meeting and analyse the information that is presented, the better our families will be informed.  
These meetings are for members of the scheduled Larrakia families only.

#larrakia #larrakiacountry #Garramilla  
Gwalwa Daraniki Association Inc. First Nations Radio First Nations Broadcasting  
Teabba - Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association

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MIDDLE ARM SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRECINCT

## Information sessions for Larrakia families

The project team for the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct would like to hear from Larrakia families.

Listening and responding to your questions, concerns and feedback during the Precinct planning phase will lead to better outcomes.

Come along to learn more, meet the project team and have your say.

Each session includes time for questions, discussion and an

Contacts

LARRAKIA REPRESENTATIVES

Your community contacts are:

Gwalwa Daraniki Association Incorporated  
p: 08 8925 5100 e: info@gwalwa.org.au

Larrakia Development Corporation  
p: 08 8947 3355 e: contact@larrakia.com.au

Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation  
p: 08 8948 3131 e: info@larrakia.com.au


Northern Land Council  
p: 08 8020 5100 e: info@norlandcouncil.gov.au

MIDDLE ARM SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRECINCT


📧 contact.MASDP@nt.gov.au

📞 08 8924 6420

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## Larrakia Family Information sessions



LARRAKIA FAMILY GROUP	WHEN	WHERE
<i>Tommy Lyons Group</i>	Friday 22 September 2023 @10am-12pm	Kulaluk GDA Offices
<i>Batcho</i>	Saturday 23 September 2023 @9am-11am	Charles Darwin University – Casuarina Campus Building Green 2 University Pirates Club Off Lakeside Drive, Brinkin (see map).
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<i>McLennan/Johns</i>	Saturday 23 September 2023 @4:30pm-6:30pm	Charles Darwin University – Casuarina Campus Building Green 2 University Pirates Club Off Lakeside Drive, Brinkin (see map).
...	Saturday 7 October 2023	Charles Darwin University – Casuarina Campus Building Green 2 University

👍 4
1 share





## Dear Larrakia families

This monthly newsletter has been created to share information and updates about the proposed Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct with Larrakia organisations and families.

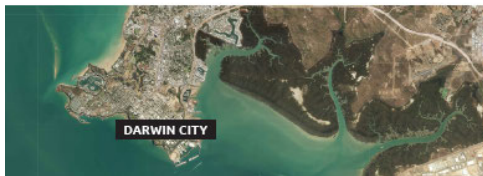
The project team are interested in better understanding your views on plans for the Precinct.

We would like to hear from you to make sure your questions are answered and the voices, values, and aspirations of Larrakia families guide the project.

You can expect to hear from us every month and we welcome you to come along to one of the upcoming community information sessions. More details about these are on page 6.

Thank you,

The Project Team,  
Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct



### September 2023 Newsletter 1 includes:

- ✓ Key information about plans for the Precinct
- ✓ Have your say at upcoming community information sessions
- ✓ Take a look at the timeline and next steps



## Your feedback so far

Understanding what's important to you will lead to better outcomes. It was valuable to hear from Larrakia families at the initial information sessions.

The project team are taking your feedback onboard and considering how it can help to shape the plans for the Precinct. Below is a snapshot of what we heard.

We are preparing a detailed record of feedback received for the Cultural Consultative Committee and will come back to you with how it's going to be used.

Once again, thank you to everyone who gave their time to attend a session and for sharing your feedback with us.

**The protection of land and sea is very important, including preservation of sacred sites and sites of cultural value:**

*There needs to be 'full blown protection' of petroglyphs. Expressed that petroglyphs can be sensitive to air quality.*

*The importance of*

*In discussions of potential dredge disposal sites, there needs to be protection of cultural sites and, for example, remnants of old fishing traps and 'always check for skeletal remains particularly on the beaches as ancestors travelled across the coast'.*

*Supportive of the strategic approach and the assessment of cumulative impacts, rather than*

## Example flyer

# MIDDLE ARM SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRECINCT

## Information sessions for Larrakia families

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Come along to learn more, meet the project team and have your say.

Each session includes time for questions, discussion and an opportunity to share your feedback.

You don't need to RSVP - just drop by at your session time.

See over the page for details.

### Contacts

**LARRAKIA REPRESENTATIVES**  
Your community contacts are:

**Gwalwa Daraniki Association Incorporated**  
p: (08) 8985 5300 e: info@gdant.org.au

**Larrakia Development Corporation**  
p: (08) 8947 3455 e: reception@larrakia.com.au

**Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation**  
p: (08) 8948 3733 e: reception@larrakia.com

**Northern Land Council**  
p: (08) 8920 5100 e: reception@nlc.org.au

**MIDDLE ARM SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRECINCT**

 [contact.MASDP@nt.gov.au](mailto:contact.MASDP@nt.gov.au)

 **08 8924 6420**

 *There's more information online too*

[middlearmprecinct.nt.gov.au](http://middlearmprecinct.nt.gov.au)



NT Government  
Contact:

Louise McCormick, NT  
Infrastructure Commissioner

Phone:

**Question 9:** Can you please provide copies of all materials the NT Government has developed as part of its public engagement around Middle Arm, including any written materials, website design, graphics, videos, social media strategy, or otherwise? Please include an estimated budget of the costs associated with each element of the public engagement strategy.

**Response:**

Stakeholder and community engagement for the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct (MASDP) is being coordinated by the Northern Territory (NT) Government Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL).

Communication and engagement is an essential element of precinct planning, design and the strategic assessment process.

DIPL is following the IAP2 framework and the guidance for consultation provided by the NT and Commonwealth regulators to meet stakeholder consultation and engagement obligations.

All costs associated with the project have supported consultation with the community and a broad range of stakeholders.

Over the course of the project's engagement activities, which commenced in 2021, several platforms, materials and publications have been used to support the public engagement and consultation process. A summary of costs and associated activities is provided below.

Activity / description	Material/ platform / media/ publication	Cost (\$)
<b>Direct Media</b>		
Social Media - NTG posts - various 'organic posts', nil cost	Facebook	\$0.00
Social media - NTG posts - Notification of community information stalls	Facebook	\$1,001.88
Newspaper - Notification of community information stalls	NT News The Australian	\$9,266.03
Radio - Notification of community information stalls	Hot FM 100, Territory FM 104.1, Mix FM 104.9	\$9,133.8
Newsletters – public and specific to Larrakia families	Online & Print (no paid media placement)	\$3,267.00
Editorial	Forge magazine	\$5,332.25
Editorial	Territory Q magazine	\$5,604.50
Editorial	Print	\$3,000.00
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>\$36,605.46</b>
<b>Public engagement and consultation</b>		
Project Overview - flyer	Print	\$654.50
Pull-up banner	Print	\$326.70
Maps	Print	\$638.00

Activity / description	Material/ platform / media/ publication	Cost (\$)
<b>Direct Media</b>		
Media releases - various	Online	\$0.00
Tablecloths - 2 x branded	Print	\$605.88
Contact cards	Print	\$137.50
Concept images and fly-through vision	Development	\$15,000.00
A-Frame - for direction to stalls	Signage	\$534.60
Pens and USBs	Stationary	\$2,002.00
PowerPoint - various presentations	Slides	\$0.00
Darwin show	Presence	\$0.00
Community stall venue bookings	Shopping centres	\$1,205.00
Facing North conference materials	Print	\$358.19
Content for newsletters - various industry groups and councils	Content supplied to share	\$0.00
Social Impact Assessment - consultation	Consultation	\$40,726.72
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$62,189.09</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$98,794.55</b>

Engagement is an ongoing process that will continue throughout the strategic assessment and beyond (should the MASDP strategic proposal be approved).

The depth of community engagement has evolved with increasing MASDP strategic proposal definition between 2021 and 2024. The preliminary stakeholder engagement strategy was guided by stakeholder mapping and early consultation to determine how people wanted to be engaged. The strategy was refined in response to stakeholder submissions made through the formal strategic assessment process, and as details of the Precinct master plan evolved. Engagement approaches will continue to evolve as more information becomes available, and in response to feedback received from stakeholders and the community.

A range of tactics and tools have been used to date to communicate and engage with stakeholders. Tactics for DIPL's engagement included briefings, attending industry conferences, community information stalls, displays for the regional show circuit, emailed updates and phone calls.

**A summary of the tools used in communication and engagement is provided below and copies of materials have been compiled in Appendix A.**

Tool	Description and intention
Fact sheets	To provide a plain English overview of the MASDP strategic proposal and regulatory assessment process. These were produced in hard copy and electronically.

Graphics, video and maps	To visually communicate the precinct layout and proposed common user infrastructure, as well as planning principles to do with the industrial ecology and sustainability.
Stakeholder database and direct mail	Used to keep people informed about MASDP strategic proposal milestones, such as the submission of referral documents to the NT EPA.
Presentations	For stakeholder and industry briefings and industry conferences.
Websites	Including: A master <a href="#">website</a> housing information on the Precinct, engagement and the strategic assessment process, providing a dedicated email contact.masdp@nt.gov.au for feedback, and a tab of <a href="#">FAQs</a> videos which address the most frequently answered questions from stakeholder consultation. A project page on the <a href="#">DIPL website</a> houses key project information including an overview, link to fact sheets, information on sustainability and environmental protection and ways to engage. The new <a href="#">Infrastructure NT website</a> hosts a precinct project page linking back to the master website for more information.
Social media posts	Including boosted posts, to raise awareness of engagement opportunities, the values mapping survey for the Strategic Social Impact Assessment and details of community stalls and Larrakia family meetings.
Newspaper and radio advertising	Promoted community information stalls.
Media releases	Promoted key MASDP strategic proposal milestones through the media.
Media advertorials	Were designed to reach broader audiences with information on the MASDP strategic proposal, key milestones and information on the regulatory process.
Content for newsletters	Sent to industry groups and councils.
MASDP strategic proposal referral and supporting documents	Contained more detailed technical information, providing an important source of information on the MASDP strategic proposal description, background on the regulatory processes and key issues being assessed.

<p>Materials for engagement with Larrakia families</p>	<p>Developed in consultation with the Cultural Consultative Committee and Larrakia stakeholders, including a monthly Newsletter for Larrakia families and organisations with customisable content based on their interests and project updates, social media posts and flyers to raise awareness of information sessions for Larrakia families and presentations. All materials for Aboriginal engagement are reviewed by the Cultural Consultative Committee before distribution.</p> <p>Information sessions were held for Larrakia families, which included sharing of information, time for questions, listening and seeking advice, discussion, and opportunities to provide feedback throughout. Maps and newsletters were printed with imagery and presentation with concept fly-through vision displayed to visually enhance understanding of the precinct plans.</p>
<p>Social Impact Assessment – preliminary draft</p>	<p>The Strategic Social Impact Assessment report is part of the environmental impact assessment process under NT and Commonwealth legislation.</p> <p>The report is designed to identify the environmental, social and economic impacts of a project at an early stage in project planning and concept design. By doing so, any potential impacts can be reduced, the project can be shaped to suit the local environment and both environmental (including social) and economic benefits can be achieved.</p> <p>In line with the regulatory process and commitment to best-practice, a Strategic Social Impact Assessment will be formally submitted as part of the Strategic Assessment to assess the potential risks (impacts) and benefits (opportunities) for community and the economy.</p> <p>Currently, DIPL is preparing the MASDP program, which includes the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the strategic proposal.</p> <p>The purpose of the draft EIS is to provide a comprehensive assessment of potential environmental impacts associated with the Precinct. This draft EIS provides details of the studies undertaken, potential impacts associated with the MASDP and assesses the likely effectiveness of the measures proposed to avoid and mitigate impacts.</p> <p>The Strategic Social Impact Assessment report, along with all other impact assessments are currently in draft form and subject to a regulatory process.</p> <p>The preliminary draft Strategic Social Impact Assessment has been informed through the collection of quantitative and qualitative data and social research through a series of workshops with stakeholders, including a working group. The preliminary and draft information presented is yet to be finalised.</p>

	<p>The Strategic Social Impact Assessment report, along with other studies and detailed technical reports, will be made available for public comment once the draft EIS is formally submitted.</p> <p>Management of any risks associated with the precinct will be addressed through various commitments, as part of the MASDP program. The hierarchy of avoid, mitigate, offset will be applied to all known impacts, in accordance with the requirements of the NT Environmental Protection Act and the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, and associated Terms of Reference (ToR). The ToR is publicly available to view here <a href="https://middlearmprecinct.nt.gov.au/contacts/strategic-assessment">https://middlearmprecinct.nt.gov.au/contacts/strategic-assessment</a></p>
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NT Government  
Contact:

Louise McCormick, NT  
Infrastructure Commissioner

Phone:

**Question 10:** *Chief Minister Lawler has a self-managed superannuation fund declared to the NT register. Does the Chief Minister currently hold, or has she held at any point since being a Minister, shares in any fossil fuel companies, and if so, in which companies?*

**Response:**

Eva Lawler has a Self-Managed Superannuation Fund (SMSF) which she established with her late husband and which has been declared in compliance with the relevant NT legislation. The SMSF is managed by an external wealth management provider.

In line with her public statement in December 2023, upon becoming Chief Minister, Eva Lawler directed the provider to divest the SMSF of all shares in companies. Outside the SMSF, Eva Lawler does not hold shares.

NT Government      The Hon Eva Lawler MLA, Chief      Phone:  
Contact:              Minister of the Northern Territory

**Question 11:** *Did the Chief Minister sell any shares following ex-Chief Minister Fyles' resignation last year, and if so, in which companies?*

**Response:**

Refer to the answer above.

NT Government      The Hon Eva Lawler MLA, Chief      Phone:  
Contact:              Minister of the Northern Territory



**Question 12:** *The ABC reported that in 2022 staff in the Chief Minister and Cabinet deleted numerous references to petrochemicals on government websites. Is this correct?*

**Response:**

This has previously been publicly confirmed by the former Chief Minister Natasha Fyles MLA.

Importantly, the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct (MASDP) website was created late 2022 to be the sole source of truth for the project. It refers to 'Petrochemicals' and details associated future industries that could be based at MASDP.

NT Government Panel: Mr Jason Schoolmeester, Major Projects Commissioner Phone:

**Question 13:** *Given that various petrochemicals industries are in the approved actions list, what proportion of the NT Government public engagement materials and resources include mention of petrochemicals?*

**Response:**

The products considered in the proposed list of actions considered in the strategic assessment are:

- Ammonia plant
- Blue hydrogen plant
- Green hydrogen plant
- Ethylene (ethane cracker) plant
- Condensate refining or Gas to liquids (GTL) plant
- Liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant
- Methanol plant
- Minerals processing
- Urea plant
- Carbon capture, compression, transport and use

This list is consistent with current public engagement materials and online resources.

NT Government Contact: Louise McCormick, NT Infrastructure Commissioner Phone:

**Question 14:** *Can you please provide a full progress report on the cultural heritage framework?*

**Response:**

The Cultural Heritage Management Framework serves as a foundation document to guide the development of comprehensive Cultural Heritage Management Plans for the MASDP, in partnership with Larrakia Traditional Owners and site custodians. It has been developed to support the strategic assessment being undertaken under section 49 of the *Environment Protection Act 2019* (NT EP Act) and Part 10 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Commonwealth) (EPBC Act).

The Framework forms part of the EIS submission documentation, and subsequent regulatory process. The Framework will be available for comment upon public exhibition, which is expected at the end of 2024.

NT Government  
Contact:

Louise McCormick, NT  
Infrastructure Commissioner

Phone:

**Question 15:** *Has a draft of the cultural heritage framework been provided to the Commonwealth Environment Minister, or a representative of the Commonwealth Environment Minister, for review?*

**Response:**

DIPL have provided a draft Cultural Heritage Management Framework that is consistent with best practice standards and guidelines and regulatory requirements, to the Federal regulators at the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) for adequacy review.

NT Government  
Contact:

Louise McCormick, NT  
Infrastructure Commissioner

Phone:

**Question 16:** For the Chief Health Officer, has the methodology for the Human Health Impact assessment been reviewed by any independent public health experts, and has it been signed off by yourself?

**Response:**

The human health impact assessment is being undertaken in accordance with the national *Health Impact Assessment Guidelines*. These guidelines are issued and administered by the Environmental Health Standing Committee (enHealth), a subcommittee of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC).

The AHPPC includes all state and territory Chief Health Officers and is chaired by the Australian Chief Medical Officer.

The human health impact assessment will form part of the EIS submission documentation, and subsequent regulatory process and will be available for comment upon public exhibition.

NT Government Panel: Dr Christine Connors, Chief Health Officer Phone:

**Question 17:** The NT Government submission states that the Territory will 'recommend' that each new proponent for an individual project be required to undertake an individual Human Health Impact Assessment. Can you clarify if this is a requirement, or simply a recommendation?

**Response:**

Under the MASDP Program requirements (approved under a strategic proposal), project proponents will be *required* to engage a suitably qualified person to undertake a Tier 1 screening assessment, consistent with the most current accepted health guidelines, to determine whether any chemicals of potential concern exceed human health screening criteria. The results of a screening assessment will be presented with an approval notice application.

Where the screening level assessment identifies exceedance of human health screening criteria or where a potential risk that cannot be classified as low without further assessment, a more detailed risk assessment will be *required to be undertaken* by a suitably qualified person in accordance with the most current health guidelines. The assessment must demonstrate that project-specific and cumulative health risks meet risk acceptability criteria defined in accordance with the most current accepted health guidelines.

The results of the health assessment will be *required to be included* in an approval notice application.

NT Government Contact: Louise McCormick, NT Infrastructure Commissioner Phone:

**Question 18:** *These individual health assessments will be conducted by industry consultants, in the period following approval, and therefore could be developed and approved in as little as 60 days, is that correct?*

**Response:**

Individual project proponents will be *required* to undertake project-specific Human Health Impact Assessment (HHIA) for *inclusion* in an Approval Notice application, specific to their project. The time required to develop project-specific HHIA's will depend on the project and proponent actions (i.e. not included in the regulatory approval timeframe).

The approval notice application and approval process available under Part 5, Division 8 of the NT EP Act provide a regulatory process for:

- proponents to accurately predict their project-specific impacts and how these must be avoided and/or reduced to align with approved Precinct-wide limits, including consideration of the contribution of other already operating or planned developments;
- the Precinct Manager to have oversight of the individual contributions of projects to the cumulative impact of development under the Program and ensure that Precinct-scale measures to avoid and/or reduce impact to within approved limits are proposed for implementation by individual proponents;
- formal regulatory oversight of the proposed future projects, including the ability to impose project-specific controls on individual projects within the scope of the Program and/or refuse projects that are inconsistent with the strategic approvals; and
- ongoing stakeholder consultation.

It is possible for an approval notice application that includes an appropriate Human Health Impact Assessment, lodged for approval with the Minister, to be approved in 60 days.

However, in order to proceed the Minister must be satisfied that:

- The proposed action has been assessed under strategic approval;
- The applicant is a fit and proper person to hold the approval;
- It is appropriate in the circumstance to issue the approval notice; and
- The environmental approval for the overarching strategic proposal has not been revoked or expired.

NT Government  
Contact:

Louise McCormick, NT  
Infrastructure Commissioner

Phone:

**Question 19:** *What are the consequences for proponents who are found out down the track to be producing emissions that exceed their modelling at the time of application, and how does the NT Government communicate this to proponents?*

**Response:**

The Precinct Manager and individual Project Proponents must obtain all necessary permits, licences or approvals required under the NT and/or Commonwealth legislation prior to undertaking development or other works within the precinct.

The *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act* (NT), administered by the NT EPA, requires that activities which have the potential to cause actual or potential environmental harm or pollution are undertaken under an approval, specifically an Environment Protection Licence (EPL) during operational activities. Enforcement action may be taken, in accordance with the compliance and enforcement policy, by the Environmental Regulation Division in the NT Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security.

There are a range of compliance and enforcement tools available to the environmental regulator in the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998*. These include penalty infringement notices, compliance plans, pollution abatement notices, environmental audits and performance agreements.

The Environmental Regulation Division will consider the likelihood of the risk occurring, the potential environmental harm and the offender's attitude to compliance when considering the most appropriate compliance and enforcement tool.

The NT EPA website contains detailed information about the compliance and enforcement tools available to the regulator.

<https://ntepa.nt.gov.au/your-business/compliance-enforcement>

NT Government  
Contact:

Louise McCormick, NT  
Infrastructure Commissioner

Phone:

**Question 20:** *Was there sign off by the Chief Health Officer for the strategic baseline studies in relation to fracking in the Beetaloo Basin, in relation to the health impacts of fracking?*

**Response:**

The Strategic Regional Environmental and Baseline Assessment (SREBA) for the Beetaloo Basin is a set of research studies to address knowledge gaps against potential impacts of proposed onshore gas activities that may be assessed. The SREBA is not designed as an impact assessment but provides appropriate information to allow government, regulators and industry to apply robust risk assessment.

The baselines can also assist in the design and planning of future development, particularly at a regional scale, in order to minimise impacts.

Whilst NT Health contributed to the development of the requirements of the environmental health baseline studies, the CHO is not required to sign off on the baseline studies conducted under the SREBA.

NT Government Panel: Dr Christine Connors, Chief Health Officer Phone:

**Question 21:** *What is the NT Government's view on mitigation of toxic air pollution in regard to petrochemical manufacturing and processing? What peer-reviewed studies is the NT Government utilising when it considers the validity and efficacy of regulatory and mitigation measures to reduce the health risk, particularly increased cancer risks, of petrochemical industries?*

**Response:**

Part 1: What is the NT Government's view on mitigation of toxic air pollution in regard to petrochemical manufacturing and processing?

Industrial sites in Australia are regulated in each jurisdiction via the use of the regulatory instruments outlined below.

The National Environment Protection Measure for Ambient Air Quality (Air NEPM) sets national standards for the six key air pollutants to which most Australians are exposed:

- carbon monoxide,
- ozone,
- sulfur dioxide,
- nitrogen dioxide,
- lead and
- particulates.

Standards refer to maximum concentrations of the pollutants set by the legislative instrument that is the Air NEPM.

The Air NEPM standards for ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) were strengthened in April 2021. The standards for SO<sub>2</sub> and particles (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) are proposed to be further strengthened in 2025.

Air Quality Monitoring Stations in Darwin measure concentrations of the 6 pollutants and monitoring data informs annual compliance reporting by the Northern Territory to the National Environment Protection Council on whether the Air NEPM standards have been met.

Additionally, there are national standards for air toxics set by the 2004 National Environment Protection Measure (Air Toxics NEPM).

Air toxics exist at very low concentrations in urban environments. Elevated levels are usually only associated with heavy road traffic and industrial sites.

Investigation level concentrations are set under the Air Toxics NEPM, which establishes a monitoring and reporting protocol and defines reference methods for monitoring of five air toxics.

These national standards are the legislative instruments set up by the National Environment Protection Council to protect air quality for the purpose of protecting human health.

Part 2: What peer-reviewed studies is the NT Government utilising when it considers the validity and efficacy of regulatory and mitigation measures to reduce the health risk, particularly increased cancer risks, of petrochemical industries?

### **MASDP air quality modelling**

An air quality impact assessment has been prepared for the draft EIS that models both existing and proposed industry to determine cumulative air quality emissions, and whether the national standards would be met.

The balanced scenario was used as the basis for proposed cumulative industries and includes one of each of the following industry types:

- Ammonia plant
- Blue hydrogen plant
- Ethylene (ethane cracker) plant
- Gas to liquids (GTL) plant
- Liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant
- Methanol plant
- Minerals processing – lithium hydroxide monohydrate (LHM) plant
- Minerals processing – ammonium phosphate (fertiliser) plant
- Urea plant.

The Air Quality Impact Assessment has been independently technically peer reviewed by a suitably qualified person.

The model predicts no exceedances of the national standards outside of the boundaries of MASDP or at sensitive receptors. The model also includes existing particulates, which can exceed air quality criteria in the dry season due to bushfires and dust.

MASDP is predicted to contribute minor concentrations of particulates and, in isolation, not exceed air quality criteria.

Project Proponents will be *required* to undertake air quality modelling as part of an environmental assessment and approval process.

Studies presented to the independent NT EPA as part of the Precinct strategic assessment (EIS) will be available for the community, and agencies and health organisations to review and provide feedback.

NT Government  
Contact:

Ms Louise McCormick, NT  
Infrastructure Commissioner

Phone:



**Question 22:** *Can you please provide further information regarding the site selection process for Middle Arm, and copies of relevant documents.*

**Response:**

The NT Government asserts public interest immunity over documents and related material regarding the site selection for MASDP. This decision is grounded in the involvement of NT Cabinet considerations and decision-making processes. The disclosure of such information would breach the confidentiality of NT Cabinet deliberations, which is deemed harmful to the public interest.

NT Government Contact: Ms Louise McCormick, NT Infrastructure Commissioner Phone:

**Question 23:** *How did the site selection process consider cultural heritage values?*

**Response:**

The NT Government asserts public interest immunity over documents and related material regarding the site selection for MASDP. This decision is grounded in the involvement of NT Cabinet considerations and decision-making processes. The disclosure of such information would breach the confidentiality of NT Cabinet deliberations, which is deemed harmful to the public interest.

NT Government Contact: Ms Louise McCormick, NT Infrastructure Commissioner Phone:

**Question 24:** *How did the site selection process consider potential health impacts?*

**Response:**

The NT Government asserts public interest immunity over documents and related material regarding the site selection for MASDP. This decision is grounded in the involvement of NT Cabinet considerations and decision-making processes. The disclosure of such information would breach the confidentiality of NT Cabinet deliberations, which is deemed harmful to the public interest.

NT Government Contact: Ms Louise McCormick, NT Infrastructure Commissioner Phone: