

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
Committee Inquiry Question on Notice
Environment and Communications
Middle Arm Industrial Precinct

IQ24-000056

Division/Agency: Agency - Infrastructure Australia

Hansard Reference: Spoken, Page No. 65 (17 June 2024)

Topic: IA - NT Government Sage 3 Business Case: Request for additional information

David Pocock asked:

Senator DAVID POCOCK: [...] Mr Tucker, you said earlier that the proposal is at stage 2. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said to a Darwin radio station in March this year that the Northern Territory government submitted a stage 3 business case to Infrastructure Australia for the Middle Arm Industrial Precinct. This was also mentioned by the NT government at the hearing in Darwin in April, I think. I'm interested if Infrastructure Australia received the stage 3 submission?

Mr Tucker: We have received the business case. We received a submission. As per our usual process, we assess that submission against the requirements of our assessment framework. In doing so, we have now gone back to the Northern Territory government to explain further areas of information we would need before we can undertake an evaluation of that business case.

Senator DAVID POCOCK: So, in short, you didn't accept their submission; you kind of said, 'You need to fix some things before we'll assess it.'

Mr Tucker: Yes, it's very standard practice for us to go back to proponents and ask for more information before we conduct an evaluation. It just means that we're being efficient with our time, and that's been the case here.

Senator DAVID POCOCK: What additional information do you need from the NT government?

Mr Tucker: We've asked for a bit more information around some of the cost estimates, some of the demand in terms of the users of the precinct, and information around the net assessment of emissions for the precinct.

Senator DAVID POCOCK: Are you able to provide to the committee that request for additional information?

Mr Tucker: I'll take that on notice.

Answer:

Infrastructure Australia provided feedback to the Northern Territory Government that in finalising the business case, the cost estimates and the demand forecasts should be further refined and include the net greenhouse gas emissions for the project consistent with the assessment methodology available. Infrastructure Australia encourages early engagement from jurisdictions as they prepare business cases, to ensure the Australian Government has access to all the information it needs from a jurisdiction to inform its investment decision.

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To maintain collaborative relationships and open dialogue, Infrastructure Australia committed to the Northern Territory Government, as it does for all proponents, that proposal information submitted confidentially will not be released or published without written consent. Questions seeking specific information on the details in the business case should be directed to the Northern Territory Government.