

Answer to Question on Notice

At the 18 June 2024 public hearing, Senator Grogan asked questions relating to ACF's claims of lack of transparency around the precinct's name and dates for when the FOI documents were produced and timeframe of ACF's submission claims.

ACF Response

Can I say in the first instance, and as I said in my address to the public hearing, ACF does not raise any name change to the Middle Arm project by the federal or NT government in our submission, Senator Grogan did, but I did say I would take it on notice.

There have been significant shifts in the way the project is described over the years, especially by the NT Government.

As far back as March 2012 then Labor NT Chief Minister Paul Henderson and Andrew Liveris outlined their vision for a petrochemicals hub in Darwin Harbour to create a “value add” for the soon to be constructed Inpex facility.

In November 2018, the NT and Commonwealth governments signed an MOU recommending the creation of a “Middle Arm Industrial hub” which has the aim of “establishing the NT as a world class gas production, manufacturing and services hub”, including “establishing gas based manufacturing and services”. The parties agree to “delivery of infrastructure and programs in support of the Northern Territory Gas Industry and gas leveraged industries”;

Subsequently, the project gets named the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct (MASDP) by the time it secures public funding. This appears to have occurred in 2020. Please see the following article.

<https://theconversation.com/darwins-sustainable-middle-arm-project-reveals-australias-huge-climate-policy-gamble-206000#:~:text=In%20July%202020%2C%20the%20NT,a%20%E2%80%9Csustainable%20development%20precinct%E2%80%9D>

I hope this information is useful for the committee.