Senate Environment and Communications References Committee: Middle Arm Industrial Precinct

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE: Hansard Transcript 11/4/2024

Senator Grogan: *Can Ms McCormick step through the environmental assessment and approval process at a high level and provide more in-depth understanding of what that the process is, which processes are Territorian, which processes are federal and how that's going to work?*

Response:

The NT Government Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics is progressing a Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct (MASDP) as an alternative to project-by-project assessments being undertaken by each future proponent. A strategic approach to environmental assessment and approval is key to sustainable development of the Precinct, as it provides an opportunity to address cumulative impacts from multiple projects over time and to achieve regulatory and administrative efficiency by avoiding project-by-project assessments.

The MASDP is undergoing a Strategic Environmental Assessment through an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under Section 49 of the *Environment Protection Act 2019* (NT EP Act) and Part 10 of the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

Under these Acts, the NT and Australian Government regulators have provided the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics EIS Terms of Reference.

A flowchart of the NT and Australian Government Strategic Environmental Assessment process is included below in Figure 1.

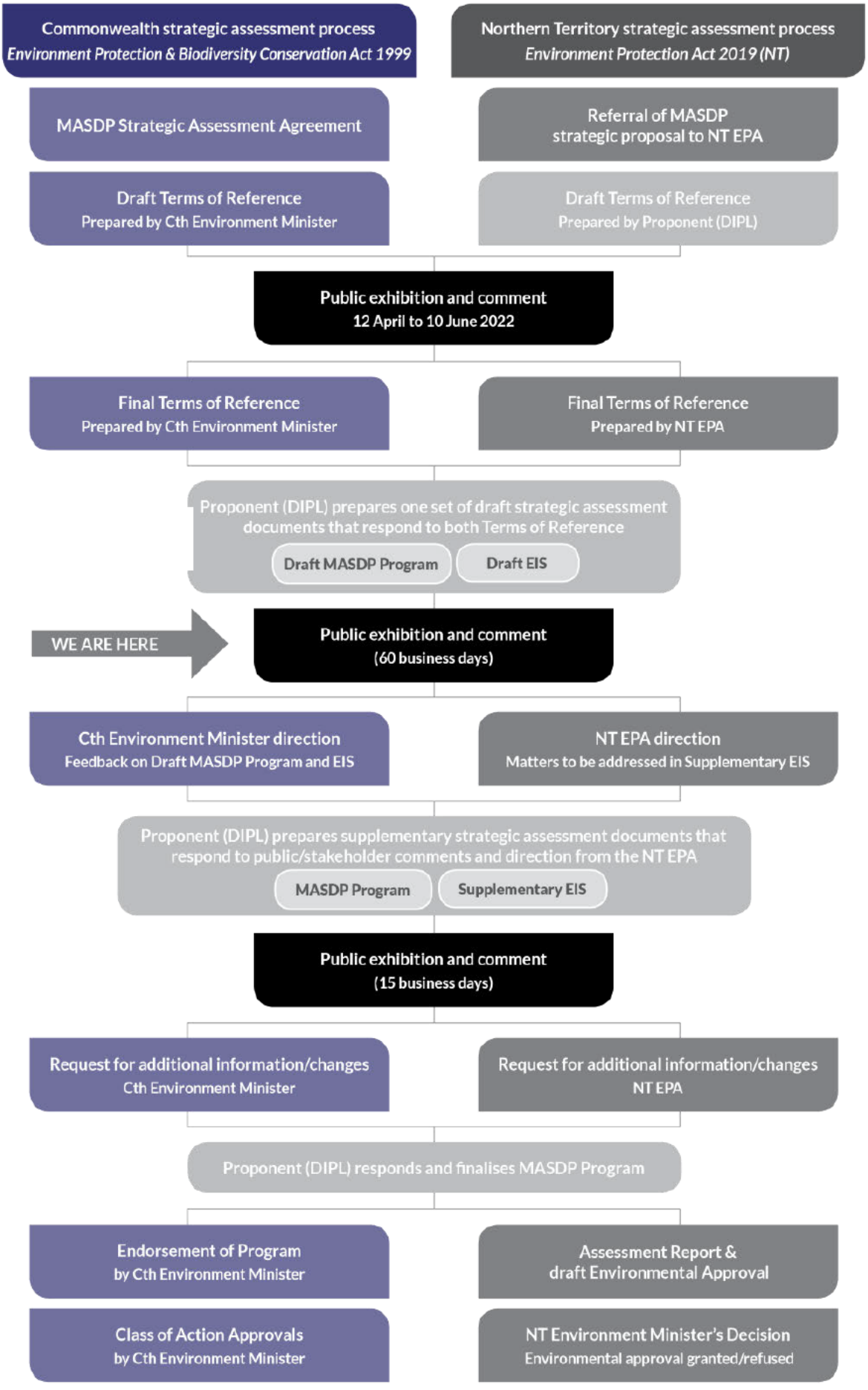


Figure 1 Flowchart of NT and Australian Government Strategic Environmental Assessment processes

The NT Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA) issued the final Terms of Reference in September 2022 following a period of public consultation and feedback. The NT Terms of Reference detail the information that is required to be provided in an EIS to meet the requirements of the NT EP Act.
https://ntepa.nt.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/1147532/tor-eis-dipl-masdp.pdf

A Strategic Environmental Assessment agreement made under the EPBC Act was signed by the former NT Chief Minister, Natasha Fyles MLA, on 18 March 2022 and the Australian Government Minister for the Environment on 31 March 2022. The final Australian Government Terms of Reference was issued by the Minister for the Environment following a period of public consultation and feedback that took place from April to June 2022.
https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/tor-middle-arm-sustainable-development-precinct.pdf

The NT and Australian Government Strategic Environmental Assessment processes are being conducted concurrently and in a coordinated and streamlined manner.

A single set of documentation is being prepared to respond to the requirements of both NT Terms of Reference and Commonwealth Terms of Reference. The documentation includes:

1. **The draft MASDP Program** – The Program describes the scope of development and sets the 'rules' that Project Proponents will be required to accept. The Program sets measurable outcomes across the Precinct that will be required to be implemented and includes specific commitments for how outcomes will be delivered.

2. **The draft Environmental Impact Statement** (draft EIS) – The draft EIS assesses the impacts of implementing the MASDP Program. It addresses how impacts will be avoided, mitigated, or offset (where necessary or appropriate) to ensure the long-term protection of the environment including the natural, physical and biological environment, culture, heritage, people and communities and the economy.

In late 2024, the draft EIS documents will be published and the community and stakeholders will be invited to provide comment and feedback.

DIPL will then prepare a Supplementary EIS that will respond to public and stakeholder comments and any directions received from the NT EPA.

The Supplementary EIS will also go on public exhibition and feedback will be sought.

There will be three types of approval holder for the MASDP Strategic Environmental Assessment as follows:

- Australian Government - EPBC Act Strategic Environmental Assessment approval holder (Overall Precinct Manager)

- NT Government - EP Act Strategic Environmental Assessment approval holder (Overall Precinct Manager)

- NT Government - EP Act approval notice approval holder (Proponents, including the entity to build the common user infrastructure)

The process to gain these approvals is outlined below.

Approval by the Commonwealth Minister (EPBC Act)

If deemed acceptable by the Australian Government Environment Minister, the MASDP Program will be endorsed and actions that are associated with the MASDP Program will be approved.

There is no second stage approval under the EPBC Act. Ongoing requirements under the EPBC Act are related to compliance and enforcement and not future authorisation of individual projects.

Approval by the NT Minister (NT EP Act)

If deemed acceptable by the NT EPA, the NT Minister will grant a strategic proposal approval with conditions to manage the impacts identified through the Strategic Environmental Assessment process.

The NT EP Act Strategic Environmental Assessment process involves two stages of approval:

- Environmental approval for the strategic proposal under Section 69; and
- Approval notices for each proposed action under Section 101 (see more information below).

The Approval notice application process is to be used to seek approval for proposed action(s) considered as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Under the NT EP Act, each future Project Proponent planning to undertake actions under the strategic proposal approval, will be required to submit an approval notice application and obtain approval from the NT Environment Minister before any work can proceed.

The approval notice process is an important validation and assurance mechanism for the MASDP strategic proposal because it can be used to address the uncertainties that exist in relation to the combination of industries that will occupy the Precinct and the scale and timing of development.

The approval notice requirement provides a robust regulatory process for:

- future Project Proponents to accurately determine their impacts and how these must be avoided and/or reduced to within approved limits (as laid out in the MASDP Program);
- the Precinct Manager to have oversight of the individual contributions of projects to the cumulative impact of development under the MASDP Program and ensure that Precinct-scale measures to avoid and/or reduce impact to within approved limits are implemented;

- the NT Minister to impose project-specific controls on individual projects within the scope of the MASDP Program, or refuse projects that are inconsistent with the strategic approval; and
- stakeholders and the community to be informed and consulted about future projects.

A flow diagram of the approval notice assessment and approval process is provided in Figure 2.

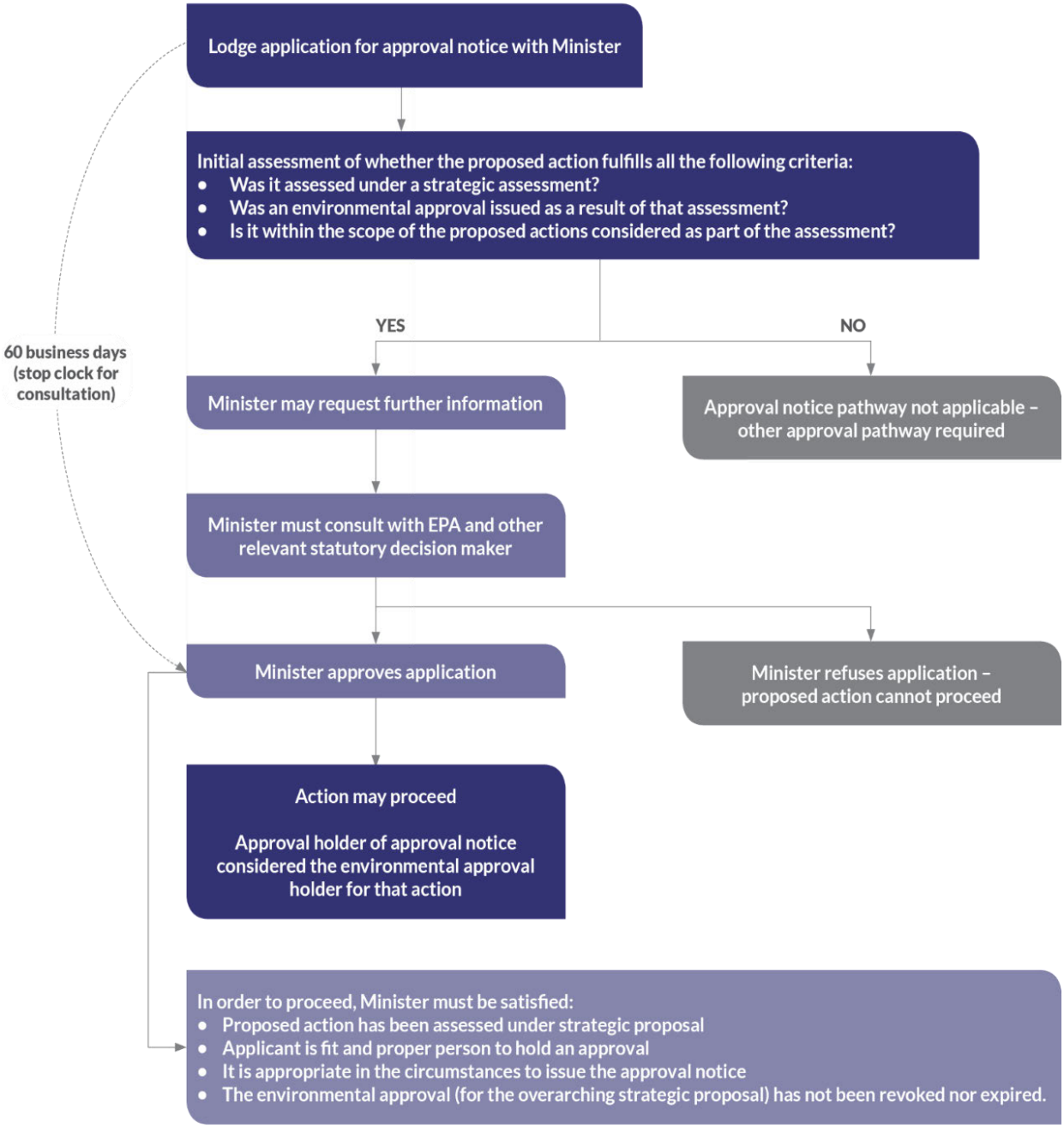


Figure 2 Approval notice assessment and approval process (EP Act Part 5, Division 8)

The entity responsible for delivery and/or operations of the common user infrastructure will also be required to obtain an approval under the NT EP Act.

All holders of approval notices will be required to comply with both their individual approvals and the overarching strategic approval.

Approval notice applications will be prepared in line with MASDP-specific guidelines, including a requirement to undertake project-specific consultation with a wide range of stakeholders prior to the lodgement of their approval notice applications.

Additionally, all approval notice applications will be made publicly available for review and comment by interested stakeholders for a minimum of 30 business days.

As part of the approval notice application process, Project Proponents must provide a copy of all public responses and a document summarising the public comments and how the comments have or have not been taken into account in the final approval notice application.

Note: the EP Act does not require the NT Environment Minister to consult with a wide range of stakeholders for approval notice applications and so this engagement requirement has been incorporated into the MASDP program.

NT Government Panel:	Louise McCormick, Infrastructure Commissioner	Phone:

Senator Grogan: *Step out the process for modelling based on industry types to get a baseline and the process you can then work off once you understand who the proponents are going to be.*

Response:

The Process for Industry modelling

The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics has undertaken considerable planning and analysis to inform the scope of development for the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct (MASDP) Strategic Environmental Assessment. This has included consideration of potential industries and layout options for land-based and marine infrastructure and facilities.

The scope of development included in the MASDP Strategic Environmental Assessment is conceptual, with a degree of flexibility built in in relation to the mix of industries and the scale of development.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment is not intended to prescribe specific Precinct layouts, designs, or methodologies. Rather, the purpose is to document the basis (the actions and activities) used for the impact assessment process.

The impact assessment process has been used to derive impact thresholds and limits that cannot be exceeded. It also articulates the environmental outcomes that must be achieved, irrespective of the type, scale and timing of development that occurs at MASDP.

Early industrial planning identified the suitability of the Middle Arm Peninsula for industries that would:

- build on established markets near Northern Australia, particularly in South-east Asia
- unlock the known reserves and deposits of critical minerals and gas resources
- build on existing regional supply chains and technical capacities and skills
- take advantage of shared assets in a co-located strategic industrial precinct
- have circular economy opportunities that seek to minimise waste streams by maximising the use of outputs for use by neighbouring industries
- have downstream processing opportunities seeking to unlock further economic opportunities in the product chain
- benefit from large scale renewable energy supply and carbon capture and storage to allow decarbonisation of scope 1 and 2 emissions profiles*.

Several precinct industry scenarios were considered in the initial industry modelling approach. These included:

- Balanced Scenario - a scenario that considered the widest range of potential industries that could be feasible at Middle Arm

- Future Fuels - where development is focused on LNG, hydrogen (blue and green) and associated advanced manufacturing industries

- Downstream Processing – where development is focused on primary products that can be further processed into downstream derivatives or used in the manufacture of other products (e.g. ethylene, methanol, ammonia, urea and critical minerals).

Scope 1 emissions are **direct** emissions that are released into the atmosphere as a direct result of the activities at a facility e.g. methane emissions from venting/flaring

Scope 2 emissions are **indirect** emissions that are released outside the facility boundary e.g. the emissions caused by the generation of electricity that is imported into the facility for use

The 'Balanced Scenario' was selected as the preferred scenario to use as a basis for the concept design and Strategic Environmental Assessment, due the increased flexibility and opportunity for industry to develop.

One of each of the following industry types is considered in the Balanced Scenario:

- liquified natural gas (LNG) plant
- gas to liquids (GTL) plant
- blue hydrogen plant
- green hydrogen plant
- ammonia plant
- green ammonia plant
- urea and derivatives
- methanol plant
- ethylene (ethane cracker) plant
- minerals processing plants

The Balanced Scenario caters for all proposed industry types (and their associated inputs and outputs). This enables development planning that is robust and includes a broad range of infrastructure requirements and environmental impacts.

With the greatest number of industries, the Balanced Scenario provides the most complex of the scenarios against which to design the Precinct and to assess the environmental impact. For example, the marine infrastructure footprint and impact on shipping traffic requires up to five product jetties to export the full range of products of a fully developed Balanced Scenario.

The Balanced Scenario requires the highest estimated capital expenditure for the Precinct enabling infrastructure.

The Balanced Scenario also presents the broadest range of potential environmental and social impacts, and therefore was considered the most appropriate scenario to comprehensively consider under a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

The intent is that by considering the Balanced Scenario in the Strategic Environmental Assessment, the approvals (if granted) can provide future flexibility toward enabling different industry types and combinations as the market demands and feedstock availability dictates.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment considers cumulative impacts associated with a 'full development scenario' where the Precinct land area is entirely developed and each of the industry types (in the Balanced Scenario) is operating. The impacts associated with this scenario are considered to represent an upper limit for the Precinct.

This means that a development scenario that involves a subset of the nominated industries (with differing production capacity and/or number of facilities), can be accommodated on the condition that the cumulative impacts associated with the full development do not exceed the limits set through the Strategic Environmental Assessment process.

Thus the strategic assessment establishes the upper limit of impacts that could occur under any subsequent approvals granted following the strategic assessment process, and therefore provides for a precautionary approach to undertaking the impact assessment.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment approval will provide the framework within which actual proponent activities can be considered, via a secondary Approval Notice process under the NT *Environmental Protection Act 2019* (NT EP Act). The Strategic Environmental Assessment Approval holder (NT Government entity) will be responsible for maintaining the conditions of the approval and administering the precinct appropriately such that the conditions are met over the period of the approval (50 years).

Example of modelling undertaken for the balanced scenario – Air Quality Modelling

Air quality atmospheric dispersion modelling has been undertaken to assess the emissions from operation of the proposed industrial facilities at MASDP. Air emissions associated with the existing major industrial facilities were assessed in combination with proposed future industries as part of a cumulative assessment.

Air quality modelling was based on the full development scenario. Potential engineering processes for each of the industries was identified including detailed air emission inventories and emission source characteristics for all processes identified. This was used in the atmospheric dispersion modelling study.

The cumulative air quality impact assessment has indicated that MASDP industries would not adversely impact air quality in the Darwin region i.e. the model predicts no exceedances of the air quality criteria outside of the boundaries of the MASDP. This includes fine particle (PM2.5) concentrations from cumulative effect of industrial emissions which was assessed as relatively minor.

Pollutant concentrations modelled in the Air Quality Impact Assessment and adopted in the Human Health Impact Assessment are highly conservative, and are an unlikely, worst-case scenario developed for planning purposes rather than an accurate assessment of true conditions.

As a result of the risk identified in the Human Health Impact Assessment, the EIS makes a commitment that all Project Proponents will be required to engage a suitably qualified person to undertake a screening level assessment of health risk based on design details for their facility. Where the screening level assessment exceeds relevant criteria or identifies a potential risk that cannot be classified as low without further assessment, a more detailed human health risk assessment will be required as part of the approval notice application.

Proponent-specific Human Health Impact Assessments must demonstrate that project and cumulative health risks meet risk acceptability criteria when assessed against current, accepted health guidelines.

The results of the assessment will be presented within an approval notice application under the NT EP Act, which will be made publicly available and is subject to approval by the NT Environment Minister.

This requirement provides a high level of confidence that no industry will be permitted in the MASDP if it poses a potentially unacceptable level of risk to human health.

How the process works for proponents

As noted in the NT Government submission to the Senate Committee, there are currently five Proponents who have "Do not Deal" agreements in place with the NT Government, regarding their proposed projects for Middle Arm. These proponents present a reflection of the industrial mix considered in the Balanced Scenario, covering the following industries:

- LNG (Tamboran)
- Hydrogen and derivatives using renewable energy (TOTAL Eren, Fortescue Future Industries)
- Minerals processing (Avenira, Tivan)

None of these proponents have reached financial investment decisions (FID) on their respective projects and there is varying project development maturity, typical of all private investment.

The NT Government is actively working to facilitate proponent understanding of the precinct, particularly the Strategic Environmental Assessment process, in order to develop project proposals that will work at Middle Arm.

A key requirement of the development pathway that proponents will need to navigate is preparation and submission of an *approval notice* to the NT EPA. The requirements of this secondary approval shall be stipulated by the overarching environmental approval, sought through the Strategic Environmental Assessment and to be held by an NT Government entity.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment and subsequent approval notices allow the NT Government to manage uncertainty and changes in proponent and industry mix throughout the life of the precent, not just at establishment.

The NT EPA has identified a statutory assessment period of 60 days for approval notices. Proponents will require consent of the strategic approval holder (NT Government entity) prior to applying for an approval notice. In addition, the framework provided by the strategic approval will require approval notice documentation to be at a high level of completeness and that proponents will need to comprehensively engage with relevant stakeholders prior to submission.

NT Government Panel:	Louise McCormick, Infrastructure Commissioner	Phone:

Senator Grogan: *Can we get an understanding of the kind of work that the Chief Health Officer was going to undertake to ensure that, as the Chief Minister has said, all Territorians are kept safe from health impacts from the Middle Arm Industrial Precinct?*

Response:

Under the NT EPA's environmental impact assessment process, 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 the screening assessment will be presented with an approval notice application.

Where the screening level assessment identifies exceedance of human health screening criteria or a potential risk that cannot be classified as low without further assessment, a more detailed Health Impact Assessment will 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 assessment will be presented with an approval notice application.

The Chief Health Officer is establishing a Health Impact Assessment Working Group, which will be responsible for assessing the adequacy of proponents' health impact assessments.

The Working Group will be chaired by the Chief Health Officer and include members with expertise in public health, environmental health, sustainability, medicine and health statistics and informatics.

Project Proponents will be required to implement project specific air emissions monitoring programs which will include the establishment of monitoring equipment at point sources where appropriate, in addition to a stack sampling and analysis regime.

The Precinct will install and maintain a new air quality monitoring station in consultation with the air quality regulators, to monitor cumulative air emissions from the Project and contribute to the regional air quality monitoring program.

The Precinct will establish a marine biota monitoring program, including quantifying baseline conditions, to adequately assess potential risks to human health through consumption of marine species and to inform adaptive management.

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

Senator Thorpe: *What is free, prior and informed consent?*

Response:

Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) of Indigenous Peoples is enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Free, prior and informed consent allows Indigenous Peoples to engage in negotiations to shape the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of projects.

Free, prior and informed consent allows Indigenous Peoples to provide or withhold consent, at any point, regarding projects impacting their territories.

The proposed Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct is not on Aboriginal Land under the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1976* nor are there any known issues of Native Title. As such, there is no clear legal obligation to obtain consent.

At present, there are statutory and/or regulatory processes in both NT and Commonwealth legislation for consulting with Aboriginal people. In some cases, the consent of Aboriginal people is required by legislation, if they are to be impacted by a proposal.

However, given the tenure of the Middle Arm Precinct, there is no formal process. As such, the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics is working directly with the Larrakia people.

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

The NT *Environmental Protection Act 2019* places obligations on proponents (including the NT Government) to:

- seek community knowledge;
- take account of their views;
- document their knowledge; and
- address Aboriginal values and rights in relation to the area that may be impacted by an action.

The consultation approach used in the strategic assessment is guided by the NT EPA guidance, which states:

> *Aboriginal stakeholders must be consulted about proposals and given opportunities to discuss and influence the outcomes of actions and decisions that may affect them. An important consideration of consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders is that of Free, Prior and Informed Consent, so that participants can make well-informed decisions in a culturally-appropriate manner that is free from coercion and sufficiently in advance of approvals or commencement. The NT EPA expects proponents to undertake appropriate stakeholder participation and consultation such that affected communities understand the proposal and its potential impacts (both positive and negative).*

Larrakia people are key stakeholders with a great deal to contribute in understanding the cultural and social values associated with the Middle Arm peninsula.

To better understand Larrakia interests, rights and values, the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics is committed to undertaking culturally appropriate and meaningful engagement with all nine Larrakia families well in advance of seeking final approvals.

The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics employs a listening-oriented approach in all meetings and discussions, sharing draft materials for input and review to seek knowledge and understanding of the cultural and social values associated with Middle Arm and Darwin Harbour more broadly, as well as economic opportunities associated with the Precinct.

The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics is funding Larrakia Development Corporation to undertake a cultural values survey and engage an independent consultant to review and verify existing heritage and environmental studies to date. This work will inform a Cultural Heritage Management Plan. A framework for engagement and formal agreement is currently being drafted.

The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics will continue to engage with Aboriginal stakeholders.

NT Government Panel:	Louise McCormick, Infrastructure Commissioner	Phone:

Senator Hanson-Young: *Can the 200 studies undertaken to date be provided to the Committee?*

Response:

A draft environmental impact statement (EIS) and Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct (MASDP) program is being prepared to address Terms of Reference under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) and the *Environment Protection Act 2019* (NT). Although the assessment process is separate under each Act, the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) and the NT Environment Protection Authority (NTEPA), as the regulators under each piece of legislation, are collaborating to streamline the process.

The community will be able to comment on the draft EIS and the MASDP program during the public exhibition period, scheduled to open at the end of 2024. At this time, the community will have access to the full draft EIS and MASDP program, as well as supporting studies. Following the public exhibition, the NT Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics will be required to address concerns and questions in a supplementary EIS.

Given this work is incomplete and still underway, the environmental studies that inform these statutory assessment processes cannot be tabled with the Committee at this time.

NT Government Panel:	Louise McCormick, Infrastructure Commissioner	Phone:

Senator Pocock: *Can Alister Trier table any copies of documents produced under the contract with Dragoman?*

Response:

The NT Government asserts public interest immunity over this material due to its involvement in pivotal processes, including deliberations at the NT Cabinet level and discussions held under commercial confidentiality. Disclosing this information could reveal Cabinet deliberations, which are typically confidential except for officially published decisions. Additionally, such disclosure could harm commercial relationships between the NT Government and contractors, potentially placing one contractor at a disadvantage and offering an advantage to competitors in their business endeavours. The details concerning commercial arrangements are also subject to legal advice.

We recognise the sensitivity surrounding these matters and wish to affirm to the Committee our commitment to transparency, albeit within the parameters defined by legal and procedural requirements.

NT Government Panel:	Alister Trier, Chair Gas Taskforce	Phone:

Senator Pocock: *Does Alister Trier know if anyone from the NT Government attended meetings in Canberra with Dragoman?*

Response:

Not to my knowledge.

NT Government Panel:	Alister Trier, Chair Gas Taskforce	Phone:

Senator Pocock: *Did Dragoman meet with politicians in Canberra or their staff about the $1.5 billion?*

Response:

Dragoman has advised that they did not meet with politicians in Canberra but did meet with staff members.

NT Government Panel:	Alister Trier, Chair Gas Taskforce	Phone:

Senator Pocock: *Did Alister Trier meet with Lidija Ivanovski in her capacity as chief of staff or Richard Marles and federal Labor's election campaign in the lead-up to the federal election in May 2022?*

Response:

I have checked my diary and have no record of meeting with either Lidija Ivanovski or Richard Marles at any stage. This concurs with my recollection.

NT Government Panel:	Alister Trier, Chair Gas Taskforce	Phone:

Senator Reynolds: *Can Jason Schoolmeester provide more information on the aspect of the development – in terms of the proponents – that will make Middle Arm world leading in terms of processing critical minerals and exporting them?*

Response:

It is widely recognised that Australia and like-minded countries need to develop critical mineral supply and value chains necessary to support our nation's transition to net zero and technological advancement.

Government-driven initiatives are needed to build Australia's critical mineral supply-chain resilience and compete with international frameworks that incentivise critical mineral processing activities in their regions (including the US' *Inflation Reduction Act*, and the EU's *Critical Raw Materials Act*).

Industry precincts are not a new concept and they have been successfully established in other Australian jurisdictions (particularly in Western Australia) and overseas.

Government investment in the development of sustainable 'development ready' industrial precincts, such as the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct (MASDP), are essential to capture the on-shoring and value adding of critical minerals in Australia through minerals processing.

The Territory has almost all of the critical minerals required for the manufacturing of renewable energy components, including current or emerging production of manganese, lithium, neodymium-praseodymium, vanadium, tungsten, magnesium, copper and cobalt. With 21 mining projects in the pipeline across the Territory and a growing demand for critical minerals to support renewable energy, battery storage and high-technology industries, MASDP is well placed to contribute to global supply chains through downstream processing of these minerals.

There are two critical mineral processing projects that have "do not deal" arrangements for sites in Middle Arm:

1. Avenira Ltd's Lithium Ferro Phosphate (LFP) battery cathode manufacturing facility,

2. Tivan Ltd's TIVAN+ vanadium iron titanium processing facility.

In their submission to the Inquiry, Tivan stated that Middle Arm is attractive for their critical minerals processing project for the following reasons:

1. Proximity to existing infrastructure: Middle Arm is strategically located near existing infrastructure, which provides logistical advantages and cost savings for Tivan's operations.

2. Urbanised workforce: The presence of an urbanised workforce in the Middle Arm area is beneficial for Tivan as it provides access to a skilled labour pool for its operations.

3. Product markets in Asia: Middle Arm's location offers proximity to product markets in Asia, which is advantageous for Tivan in terms of export opportunities and accessing a large customer base.

4. Common use infrastructure: The master planning of Middle Arm includes the development of common use infrastructure, which allows for the benefits of shared facilities and resources. This can lead to cost efficiencies and faster pathways to commercial viability for Tivan and other proponents in the area.

5. Environmental considerations: Tivan's focus on renewable energy and circular economy principles aligns with the development plans for Middle Arm, which aim to minimise environmental impacts. This shared commitment to sustainability makes Middle Arm an attractive location for Tivan.

6. Government support and funding: The NT and Commonwealth backing of the MASDP development provides Tivan with confidence in the long- term viability and success of the project.

7. Potential for regional and First Nations community benefits: Tivan recognises the opportunity for MASDP to create employment and business opportunities, particularly for regional and First Nations communities. By locating its facilities at Middle Arm, Tivan can contribute to the economic development and diversification of the NT, while also engaging and advocating for the inclusion of First Nations groups and communities in the project.

In addition to many of the benefits outlined by Tivan, Avenira have indicated to NT Government officials that locating their projects at Middle Arm provides them with future access to:

1. An investment-ready site that meets their project development timeframes.

2. Freight and logistic connections from the ore from their Wonarah Phosphate Project, near Tennant Creek.

3. An industrial-scale green power supply.

4. Streamlined environmental regulatory approvals made possible from the Precinct's Strategic Environmental Approval.

Other prospective proponents of the MASDP, including international investors, confirm that the Precinct offers a very attractive proposition. In particular, the potential for critical minerals processing utilising low emissions energy at an integrated hub close to a deep water port on Australia's north coast is seen as a unique and highly attractive opportunity.

Once established, the projects at Middle Arm are expected to drive investor confidence for other investments to follow, which are important not only for securing Australia's economic interests but also for safeguarding national security by ensuring continued access to and control over critical resources.

The combination of global demand for diverse supply chains for critical minerals together with the green energy and operational advantages for proponents make Middle Arm a world leading location for critical minerals process.

NT Government Panel:	Jason Schoolmeester, Major Projects Commissioner, Investment Territory	Phone:	08 8999 5178

Senator Grogan: *If there are commitments made by an organisation like INPEX that are not following through, what is the process for holding those organisations to account and what would be the process for the rest of Middle Arm?*

Response:

Industry proponents are subject to all relevant international, national and Territory laws and regulations that govern operations and use of land, sea and environment.

Governance processes around commitments made by organisations operating within the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct will be developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders as part of regular Precinct planning.

NT Government Panel:	Jason Schoolmeester, Major Projects Commissioner, Investment Territory	Phone:

Senator Hanson-Young: *What types of advertising has the NT Government placed in relation to the Middle Arm Precinct and how much has it cost?*

Response:

Communication and engagement is an essential element of precinct planning, design and the environmental 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 media costs associated with the project have supported consultation with the community and a broad range of stakeholders.

There has also been multiple requests for presentations about the precinct which were all at nil cost as it was undertaken by NT Government employees.

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

Activity / description	Platform / media	Cost ($)
Direct media		
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
	Sub Total	**$36,605.46**
Public engagement and consultation		
Project Overview - flyer	Print	$654.50
Pull-up banner	Print	$326.70
Maps	Print	$638.00
Media releases - various	Print	$0.00
Tablecloths - 2 x branded	Online	$605.88
Contact cards	Print	$137.50
Concept images and fly-through vision	Print	$15,000.00

Activity / description	Platform / media	Cost ($)
A-Frame – for direction to stalls	Development	$534.60
Pens and USBs	Signage	2,002.00
PowerPoint – various presentations	Stationary	$0.00
Darwin show	Slides	$0.00
Community stall venue bookings	Presence	$1,205.00
Facing North conference materials	Shopping centres	$358.19
Content for newsletters – various industry groups and councils	Print	$0.00
Social Impact Assessment – consultation	Content supplied to share	$40,726.72
	Sub Total	**$62,189.09**
	Total	**$98,794.55**

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 Environmental 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 Environmental 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 of these notifications and their associated costs are outlined below.

Notification of meetings with nine Larrakia family groups

- Times and location advised and agreed to in consultation with Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation, Larrakia Development Corporation, Gwalwa Daraniki Association Incorporated and Northern Land Council.

- 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.

Larrakia family Information sessions

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

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)

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.

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:

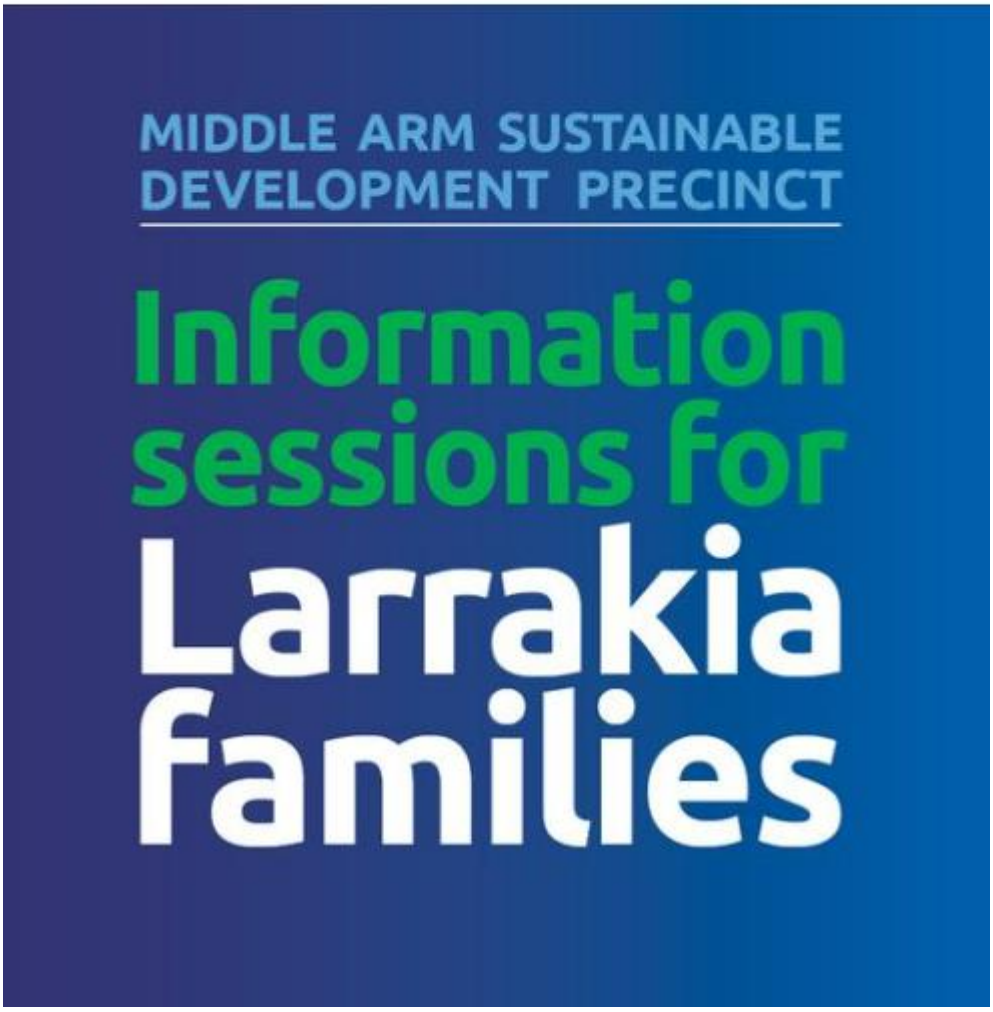
- Shepherd @9am-11am
- Fejo @11:30am-1:30pm
- Roman/Danks @2pm-4pm
- Raymond/Mills @4:30pm-6:30pm

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 CorporationGwalwa Daraniki Association Inc. First Nations Radio First Nations Broadcasting Teabba - Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association



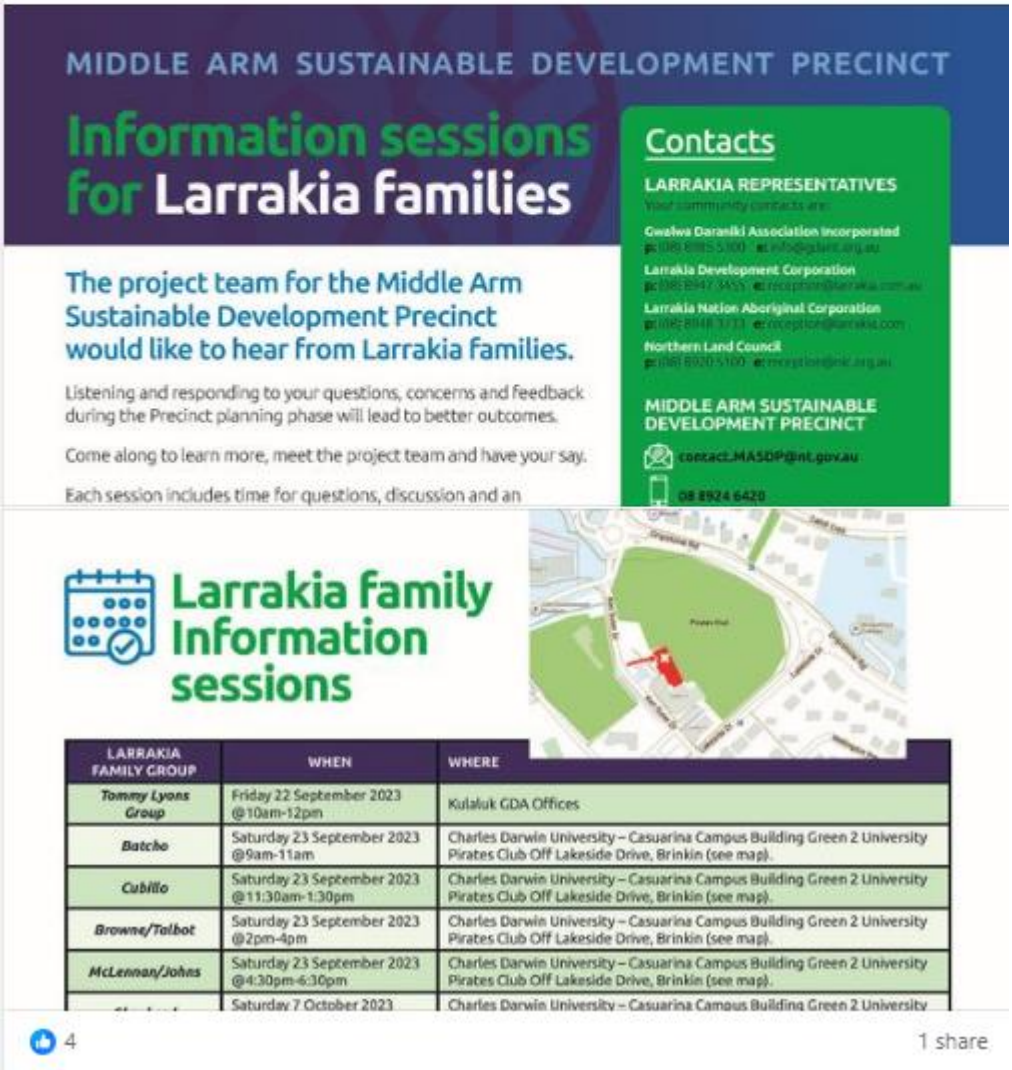
Social media example

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



4 1 share

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).

Social media example

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

Social media example

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.

Community information stands

MIDDLE ARM Sustainable Development PRECINCT

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/

NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT

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

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 waterfall 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, cutting businesses' red tape, and employment.

Eva 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 mark time, 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 Nightcliff MLA Natasha Fyles 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 Territorians working," she said.

"We cannot have more generations of Territorians not working." Part of her plan for boosting the NT's employment rate falls on getting more Aboriginal Territorians into jobs.

Ms Lawler said she wanted to see more remote Territorians 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 Territorians 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 Division.

"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 Territorians "get on with their lives and build new businesses".

She said the one-stop digital "doorway" 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

Firebrand leftist politician Julius Malema has accused the ruling ANC of neglecting South Africa's ills 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, lacklustre 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 stave off its white, middle-class identity, has formed a coalition with several other groups.

But it has refused to join forces with the EFF, citing stark differences.

Community information stands

MIDDLE ARM Sustainable Development PRECINCT

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NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT

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/ ”

Newsletters

- Nil advertising costs.
- Hosted online and in print.

Example Larrakia newsletter

Latest News

MIDDLE ARM SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRECINCT

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.

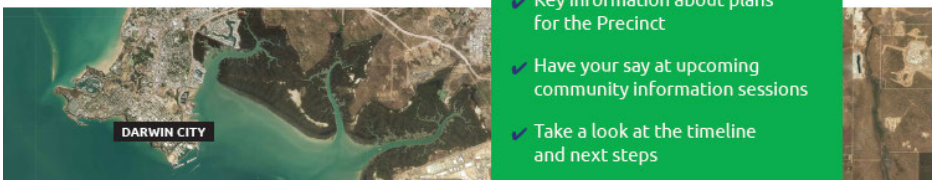
You can expect to hear from us every month and we welcome you to come along to one of the upcoming community information sessions. More details about these are on page 6.

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:

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'.

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

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

The importance of

Example community newsletter

MIDDLE ARM SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRECINCT

NEWSLETTER

NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT

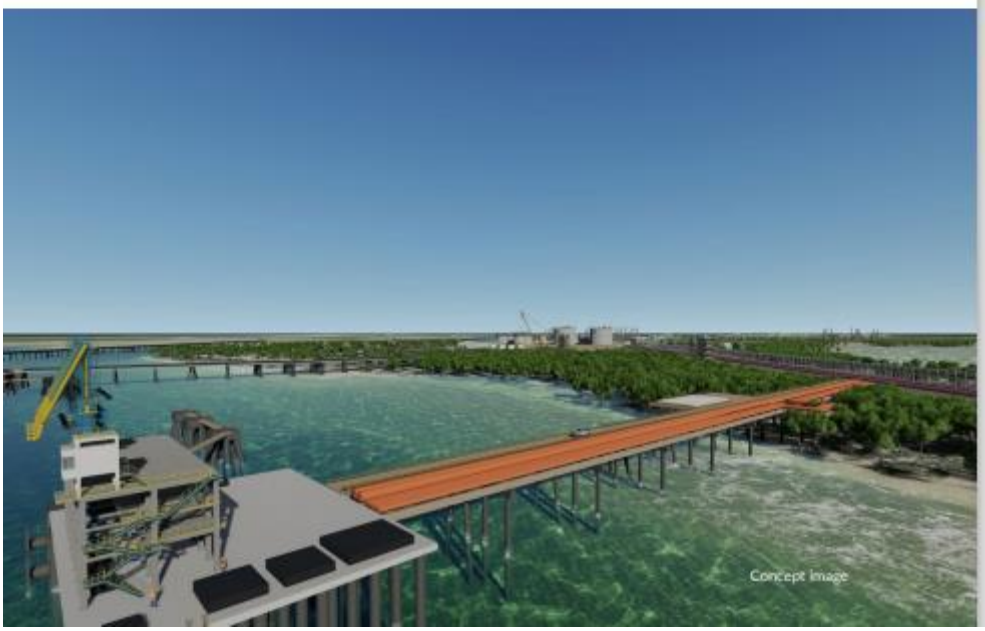
This newsletter has been created to share key information and updates about the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct with stakeholders.

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

Territory Q magazine [Web_Territory Q Vol40_July 2023 (fliphtml5.com)]

- 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 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 CO_2 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 Territor

Collectively, these projects represe 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 wit all the conditions and limits set by strategic environmental assessmer (SEA) and approval process for the precinct, which is underway.

NT Government Panel:	Louise McCormick, Infrastructure Commissioner	Phone:	8924 7123

Senator Pocock: *What is the safe level of volatile organic compounds for people?*

Response:

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) comprise various organic chemicals; some compounds are acutely toxic while others are more of a long term health risk. The nature and impact of the health effects are dependent on the VOCs concentrations and on the exposure time.

The National Environmental Protection Council has established the National Environment Protection (Air Toxics) Measure, which sets monitoring investigation levels for range of VOCs.

Atmospheric levels of VOCs below these monitoring investigation levels, for the given averaging time, do not pose a significant health risk.

VOCs commonly associated with industry include benzene, toluene, xylene and formaldehyde.

The National Environment Protection (Air Toxics) Measure sets a monitoring investigation level for benzene at an annual average of 0.003ppm.

The National Environment Protection (Air Toxics) Measure sets a monitoring investigation level for toluene at a 24-hour average of 1ppm and an annual average of 0.1ppm.

The National Environment Protection (Air Toxics) Measure sets a monitoring investigation level for xylene at a 24-hour average of 0.25ppm and an annual average of 0.2ppm.

The National Environment Protection (Air Toxics) Measure sets a monitoring investigation level for formaldehyde at a 24-hour average of 0.04ppm.

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