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Committee Chair
Mr Scott Buchholz MP
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
Parliament House
Canberra 2600

Email: pwc@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Buchholz

RE: LARRAKEYAH DEFENCE PRECINCT PROJECT

I write to advise the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works that my Government unequivocally supports the Larrakeyah Defence Precinct Major Capital Investment Projects. We understand the importance of these projects to the defence of the nation as well as its important economic contribution to north Australia.

Both the Australian Government and the Northern Territory Government are committed to *Developing the North*- a policy that has bi-partisan support here and nationally. Investment in defence capability in the north not only provides an important strategic lift to our nation's security, it acts to stimulate the economic growth and development of the north, fulfilling two key strategic goals of the Australian and Territory Governments.

The Northern Territory Government has established key goals and strategies in support of a strong defence and national security presence in the Northern Territory integrated with the community and effectively supported by a competitive and skilled Northern Territory industry. The Northern Territory Defence and National Security Strategy 2018 establishes the vision of the Northern Territory Government, industry and the community for the Northern Territory as a key defence and national security hub and the primary centre for maintenance and sustainment of facilities and assets deployed to the region.

In taking action to support our words the Territory Government has complemented the Australian Government's continued investment in defence infrastructure in the north.

The Northern Territory Government has been developing Northern Australia's Maritime Industries Hub since 2000. This investment includes:

- East Arm Wharf Stage One, 2000
- Alice Springs to Darwin Railway, 2001
- Darwin Business Park, 2003
- East Arm Wharf Stage Two, 2006
- Vopak Terminal, 2006
- Common User Area Stage One, 2010
- Darwin Marine Supply Base, 2012
- Common User Area Stage Two, 2015
- Multi User Barge Ramp Facility, 2016
- Marine Services Area Stage 1, 2019
- Common User Ship Lift Facility, 2021

My Government will continue to work collaboratively with the Australian Government to deliver the infrastructure needed to sustain operations in Australia and the Indo-Pacific region for trade, security, protection of our sovereign borders and for humanitarian support.

The Territory Government has also worked tirelessly towards developing local industry so they can be competitive for future contracts. This aligns strongly with the Australian Government's recently released Industry Capability Plan which advocates the promotion of local content.

Accordingly, I reiterate my Government's full support for the Larrakeyah Defence Precinct Major Capital Investment Projects.

Yours sincerely,

MICHAEL GUNNER

- 1 MAY 2018