

Environment and Communications References
Answers to questions on notice
Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Portfolio

Inquiry: Inquiry into the Middle Arm Industrial Precinct

Question No: IQ24-000108

Hearing Date: 17 June 2024

Division/Agency: Nature Positive Regulation Division

Topic: Engagement with the NT Government

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Question Type: Spoken

Senator David Pocock asked:

Senator DAVID POCOCK: I'm looking at the discrepancies between what the different proponents are talking about. Mr Edwards, has the NT Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics provided a draft environmental impact statement to the department for review and comment yet?

Mr Edwards: We have received some drafts, but I'm not sure if it's a complete document, just to clarify that. They're feeding components through to us in that really early drafting period, and we've certainly provided some comments on some of those components.

Senator DAVID POCOCK: When was that provided?

Mr Edwards: I'm not sure of the exact timeframe. I've got a colleague here, but it was in the last couple of months. I'll see if Ms Calhoun has a clearer date.

Ms Calhoun: We received the first draft in December last year, but it's been an iterative process that we've been working on since that time. A number of the different parts of that EIS have been worked through between ourselves and the NT government.

Senator DAVID POCOCK: How many iterations have there been?

Ms Calhoun: Well, it's an active process at the moment. It's not 'hand over a document, review it, hand it back'; we are having workshops and several meetings to work through the detail to look at how the impact has been characterised and whether it meets the needs of what should be in an EIS before it goes for public consultation.

Senator DAVID POCOCK: How far off is it from being adequate for review?

Ms Calhoun: We expect that either at the end of quarter 3 or end of quarter 4 it would go out for public consultation.

Senator DAVID POCOCK: Are you able to provide any of the written feedback that was provided to the NT Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics?

Ms Calhoun: I think we took on notice from the budget estimates a list of the engagement that we've had with the NT government around this, so I'm happy to provide the dates and what we've been discussing. Providing all the detail would be quite lengthy, so we could provide a summary of that.

Senator DAVID POCOCK: Thank you.

Answer:

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) provided early feedback to the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL) representing the Northern Territory Government in December 2023 regarding the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct (MASDP) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The parties have had regular contact to support the iterative stages of the early draft EIS review process. DIPL, DCCEEW and the Northern Territory Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security meet monthly for project management purposes.