

Remote Towns

Monday 19 June 2017 – Mr Guyula – Question to the Minister for Planning, Infrastructure and Logistics – East Arnhem Infrastructure

Mr GUYULA: There is another question. I am not sure whether this is the right time. I will take this opportunity to support the government for investing in the Milingimbi airstrip and the Galiwinku shelter. Could you advise of any other major infrastructure works in East Arnhem Land, who are the contractors and where are they based?

Ms MANISON: Member for Nhulunbuy, a good question, and I applaud the fact you are at the table asking these questions. It is important for you to be able to ask questions on behalf of your constituents. You are doing the right thing to scrutinise the government and the expenditure. It highlights to me that we should really have the opposition and other Independents here doing the same as you.

With regards to the investment in infrastructure across East Arnhem Land there is \$2m going into the Milingimbi airstrip, which is very important for your constituents and ensuring better access to air services. I met members of the board of ALPA when I was at Oenpelli last year. The gentlemen made it clear to me that was a big priority for the community of Milingimbi.

The department has done a great deal of work since that issue appeared with CASA, air services and plane manufacturers to see what could be done. In the end we felt the \$2m investment is a wise to support the people of Milingimbi to have better access to services and honour our commitment around the Galiwinku safe house investment, ensuring more protection for those dealing with family violence.

We have further investment going into the region. I will go to Mr Kirkman, who looks to have a list of works happening. The repairs and maintenance program will flow through to invest in more government infrastructure in your electorate and support local jobs. Additionally, the remote Indigenous housing program and our \$1.1bn program investment in remote housing will benefit many of your constituents.

I will hand over to Mr Kirkman to go into further detail.

Mr KIRKMAN: To explain more about what is happening in East Arnhem next financial year, the budget year—as you have mentioned, the Milingimbi aerodrome is an important one for us. We are keen to see that service reinstated for the larger aircraft in Milingimbi. There is some money put aside for that. We recently wrote to the Australian Government and received the great news that it is supporting us with \$1m on that project, so that is great.

There is \$1m for Galiwinku for safe houses. We also have quite a sum for upgrading fire safety at the Gove hospital; that is \$3.6m. There is a considerable repairs and maintenance budget for next year; that is about \$8.7m spread across the various agencies, the big one being the Top End Health Service. There is also a considerable amount for roads repairs and maintenance.

We also have a considerable minor new works budget. These are works that are at a higher value than repairs and maintenance but less than capital works. That is over the 500 mark now, so that is considerable. There is \$6.7m worth of minor new works spread across the agencies. Those are considerable sums in transport and road works. There is \$1.2m of that going into education.

Ms MANISON: The school upgrades, with \$300 000 for every school—every school in the region will benefit from that.

Mr KIRKMAN: There is considerable work for roads. I am happy to answer more of those questions under Output 11, if you would like to answer them then, but there is a considerable sum for road infrastructure for East Arnhem as well.

Monday 19 June 2017 – Mr Guyula – Question to the Chief Minister – Nhulunbuy Town Plan

Mr GUYULA: Can you provide a similar overview for Nhulunbuy's town hub as you have just provided for Katherine?

Mr GUNNER: I am very excited about some of the opportunities in Nhulunbuy. There are some I cannot talk about yet because they are in formative stages, or almost ready to discuss stages, but I know the work of developing East Arnhem Land is something that we want to take to Jabiru because of basis of success.

For those who are unaware, the use of that housing stock to encourage economic opportunities and providing a place for people to live is providing a revenue stream for investment into other activities in the area. Occupational therapy in Nhulunbuy is better than some of the services we can get in other parts of the Territory; it is excellent.

There are significant advantages in Nhulunbuy for fishing, both tourism and commercial. We have some competitive advantages in Nhulunbuy around the port that we need to explore. There is some good work being done by traditional owners in the area investing in potential mining services.

One of the big things we can work on in Nhulunbuy and the region is the NDIS. It is crucial that we see social need as an economic opportunity. It is both, not one or the other. In delivering care for Territorians, the NDIS can deliver massive opportunities for locals.

I raised this at COAG recently, about needing to have a national workforce plan, but we are getting ahead of this with the work we are doing in Nhulunbuy. It will be place-based and will lead to a significant number of jobs in the area for the care of Territorians. It is an economic opportunity.

Ms BACON: As the Chief Minister indicated, following the Barkly trial, East Arnhem is the first region we are rolling out the National Disability Insurance Scheme. While I do not have the figures for the East Arnhem region, in terms of the scale of the opportunity we expect a doubling of investment in the disability service market in the Northern Territory, from \$160m in 2014 to \$320m per annum by 2020.

So there is significant investment going into disability services, including in the Nhulunbuy region and across the Northern Territory. There is a projected increase in full-time equivalent jobs of between 1175 currently to 1325 by 2020. We anticipate over a thousand additional jobs will need to

be created to be able to meet the increased demands for services that will be available once the National Disability Insurance Scheme is rolled out.

Mr GUNNER: I might just have Andy touch on what is coming out of the Economic Development Committee in Nhulunbuy, and local traditional owners with mining and other stuff that is happening.

Mr COWAN: There has been significant work done with the local Economic Development Committee, and they provided strong representation throughout the economic development summit process that was led by the Department of Trade, Business and Innovation. I know that agency will provide more detail when they present, but as the Chief Minister mentioned, there are significant opportunities in North East Arnhem Land. An economic study has been undertaken to support the work post-curtailment of the refinery, which will be finalised in the next couple of months. This study will look at opportunities for diversifying the economy post-mining for the future of the Nhulunbuy region. There are some exciting opportunities coming forward for the region.

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