

Remote Towns

Tuesday 12 June – Question to the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development – Barge Landings on Homelands

Mr GUYULA: Thank you, minister. My first question is—I have two. The government is currently consulting about barge landings with many of the communities in my region. I have had a briefing on these issues in my office and I appreciate it, but I think there may be a problem with some of these consultations because they have begun consulting with the towns rather than the homelands. Many of these barge landings are on homeland country, for example Gapuwiyak and Ramingining.

Barge landings should be called Bunhangura barge landing and Dhabila barge landing. Even though they service the larger communities they are different clans. It is quite disrespectful to talk about a project on someone's land without discussing it with them first.

In the case of Gapuwiyak, the land owners were almost completely left out of the conversation. The consultation must first be held with the homeland residents and landowners. Could you advise how this project will continue and how the right clans will be involved in the consultation with government about the future of the barge landings?

Ms MANISON: It would be fair to say that this is one piece of constantly revoted infrastructure and I think the Gapuwiyak one goes back about eight years now. That has caused me a point of frustration and something that I have asked the department to work on—to go, how can we look at out how we progress these issues forward. As you appreciate—as someone from a remote community—barge landing access is vital for access to critical supplies in and out of your community, particularly in the wet.

I am frustrated that there is good money in the budget—about \$2.5m for Maningrida, \$2m each for Wadeye, Galiwinku, Ramingining and Gapuwiyak—to get these barge landings built, because I want people in remote communities to have the quality infrastructure they deserve. I take your point on board, but when we are on traditional owners' country it must be done with the authority and permission of the traditional owners. This is where the department has gone about not doing a one-size-fits-all, it is going from community to community to understand what the traditional owners are comfortable with. Then we can progress the discussions around leasing with the Northern Land Council and with the traditional owners on their country.

I want to see these barge landings built, because I can see it is an important piece of infrastructure when it comes to the logistics of getting vital supplies and services in and out of remote communities. If we are to reach economic development potential and get better services to make

things more cost-effective getting in and out of communities, such as groceries, then we need good transport access and infrastructure.

I want to crack through this issue but I need to get people on the ground such as yourself. I would be happy to meet with you separately, Member for Nhulunbuy, to get an understanding of your feedback from your electorate and communities. Particularly your concern that consultation is not necessarily happening with the right people and there needs to be further discussions with those homelands and traditional owners if it is on their country.

I think you agree with me on how important this type of infrastructure is, so we need to take guidance from traditional owners about how to make it happen. We have the money in the budget and have had money in the budget for years. How do we make this happen so that we get support from the community? The barge landings have been one point of frustration for me because I want to see that these happen.

I now hand over to Mr Kirkman.

Mr KIRKMAN: As per the minister's discussion, these have been outstanding for far too long. We would love to deliver these works and that is why we are under way, having those discussions around land tenure and making sure we get the appropriate systems in place to deliver that infrastructure.

I understand there are some barge landings that are situated on different country to where community is situated, and Galiwinku is a good example of that. As the minister said, we would be happy to sit down with you to get a better understanding of that. We will be making sure our team and consultants have an eye to making sure we are talking to the traditional owners—not only of the community that will get the benefit of those barge landings but also the traditional owners of the outstations where the barge landings are actually located—and making sure we get that they are comfortable with how we are moving forward. Thank you for bringing that up.

Tuesday 12 June – Question to the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development – Nhulunbuy marine infrastructure planning

Mr GUYULA: Government has announced that work will commence to develop a business case and project plan for new marine infrastructure in Nhulunbuy. Could you provide some details of this project? Will the local surrounding communities and homelands be consulted on this project and be able to give input to the project plan?

Ms MANISON: Thank you, Member for Nhulunbuy. That is a question I will get you to put to the Minister for Trade, Business and Innovation. It is part of the major project works they are doing. It is fair to say, with the changes to the mining industry in Nhulunbuy, we are looking at ways in which to

diversify the economy and open up new business and investment opportunities, not just for Nhulunbuy but for the region.

Having traditional owner support will be a very important part of that. We see that there are some opportunities for tourism, logistics, supporting the fishing industry and other industries in the region—you get your marine infrastructure right.

That is a conversation we very much need to have for the future of the region and the economic development opportunities if we are to maximise those for people in the region. That is something for the Major Projects team. They will going out and having further discussions with the community.

Thursday 14 June – Question to the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development – Nhulunbuy Town Lease

Mr GUYULA: I clearly know the people have been going this way or that way to find out how they can be supported. There are many concerns in Nhulunbuy about the future of the town because of mining. Can you advise of the progress of the negotiations for the town lease?

Mr McCARTHY: Thank you for that question. I am not sure we have the details you require. I will ask which agency—the Department of the Chief Minister. Member for Nhulunbuy, if you table that as a written question to the Department of the Chief Minister, you will receive an appropriate response.

Mr GUYULA: Okay, thank you.

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