

# NEWSLETTER



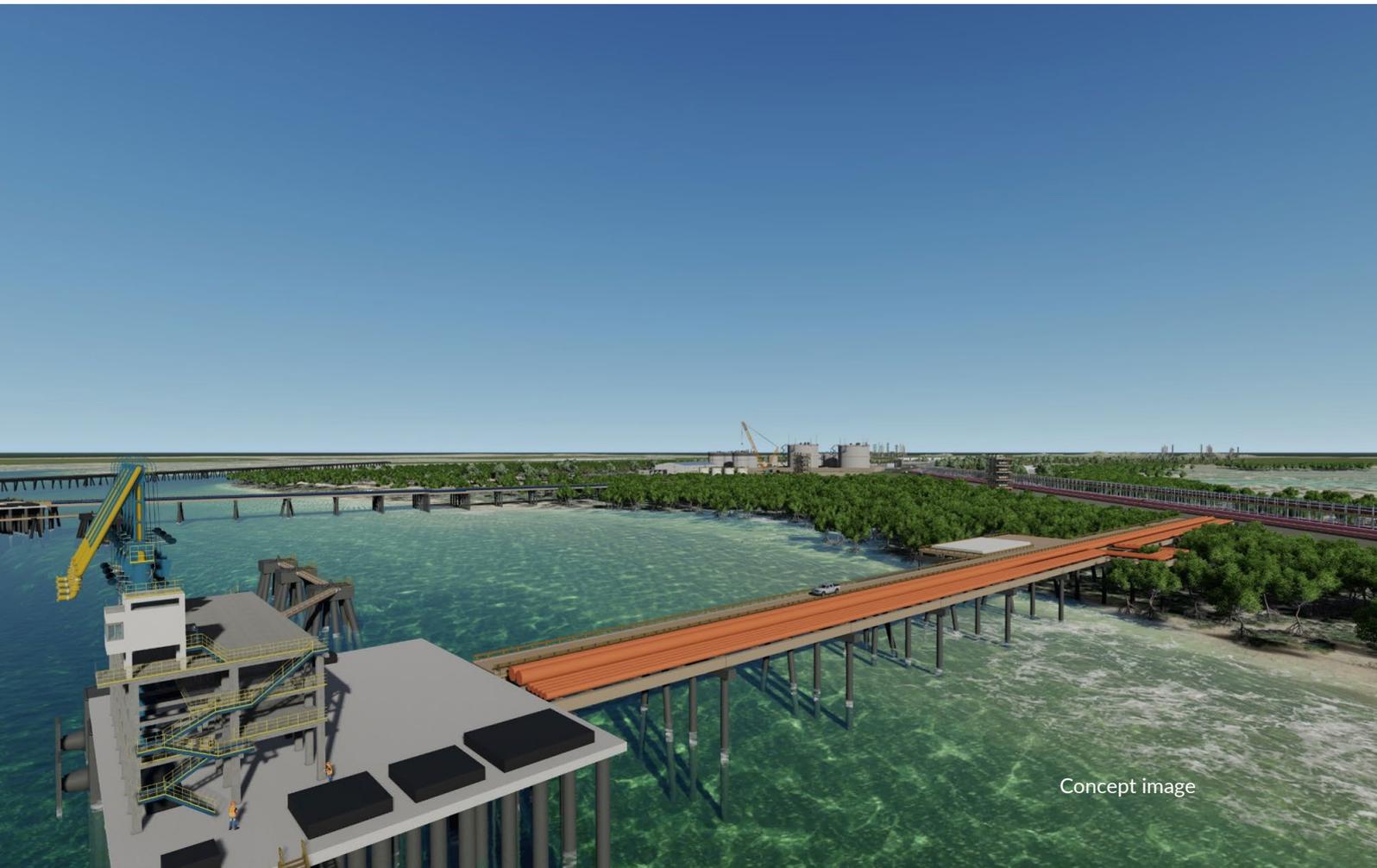
This newsletter has been created to share key information and updates about the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct with stakeholders.

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



Concept image

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

We have compiled the questions that are most commonly asked and answered them through a series of videos on this FAQs page:

<https://middlearmprecinct.nt.gov.au/contacts/frequently-asked-questions>

Topics covered include:

- What role will renewable energy play at the Precinct?
- Will the Precinct affect recreational use of Darwin Harbour?
- What role will natural gas play at the Precinct?
- What are Petrochemicals and will they play a role at the Precinct?
- Will the Precinct be sustainable?
- How will carbon capture and storage work at the Precinct?



Concept image

# STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Regulation is about making sure any project is the right thing for everyone; communities, economy, environment and for future generations.

The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics has commissioned a Strategic Environmental Assessment that considers potential activities at Middle Arm for the next 50 years. It will ensure potential environmental, social, cultural and economic impacts are assessed.

The Precinct is being assessed as a strategic proposal under both the [NT Environment Protection Act 2019](#) and the [Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999](#).

The Strategic Environmental Assessment sets the framework for development. The comprehensive process will deliver certainty for both community and business, outlining the types of development activity approved to occur, and the conditions under which they may operate. It is a rigorous assessment that considers the regional and cumulative impacts of a program of multiple projects over decades.

On 4 October 2023, the [Terms of Reference for the Precinct strategic assessment](#), which considered public comments, were finalised. The Terms of Reference specify what must be included in the Environmental Impact Study to ensure possible impact of the development is correctly measured and assessed.

The Precinct is designed to attract industries that are reflective of the Territory's future economy where there will be a focus on renewable energy and critical minerals industries that will be needed to help transition to net zero.

Any industry located at the Precinct will:

- meet strict environmental standards and conditions
- use the best available technology
- ensure its processes and products align with strong sustainability and design criteria
- undertake consultation with the community.

Approval of the program at the level of Strategic Environmental Assessment does not provide approval for individual proponent activities. Individual proponents will complete an approval notice application process on top of demonstrating they comply with the program.



Concept image

## STUDIES

The Precinct is being developed sustainably and in compliance with environmental regulations.

The purpose of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is to provide a comprehensive assessment of potential environmental impacts associated with the Precinct. This will be published for public comment. Public comments received will then inform development of the final Environmental Impact Statement.

The draft EIS will provide details of the studies undertaken, potential impacts associated with the Precinct and assess the likely effectiveness of the measures proposed to avoid, mitigate and offset impacts.

The assessment will inform the development of the Precinct Program which defines the scope of future development (actions and activities) and the environmental management framework that will be implemented to avoid, minimise, and offset environmental impacts. Studies underway include:



### **115+ environmental deliverables such as:**

- air quality assessment
- water quality assessment
- marine ecology study
- human health impact assessment
- noise, traffic and visual amenity studies
- flora and fauna conservation strategy
- social impact assessment
- archaeological study
- economic impact assessment.



### **46+ marine deliverables such as:**

- jetty engineering design
- module off-loading facility design
- marine navigation and traffic study
- shipping channel dredging studies.



### **80+ land development and industry planning deliverables such as:**

- shared infrastructure designs such as roads, water and electricity supply, product corridors, drainage, wastewater treatment, land layouts, governance framework models.

There are also several studies in progress and others that will be required as planning and feedback continues. For example, the Northern Territory Government has committed to funding a Larrakia-led Cultural Values Survey.

## SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES

A number of overarching sustainability principles have been embedded in the Precinct design and these include:

- ✓ Industrial circular economy principles, involving the sharing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling of existing materials to maximise economic benefits and minimise environmental impacts.
- ✓ Maximising the use of shared infrastructure, reducing impact footprint and enabling circular economy opportunities, including common user infrastructure – roads, marine facilities, product and services corridors; an industrial wastewater treatment system once there are sufficient volumes of wastewater; renewable energy network; and collection and transport of carbon dioxide to an offsite storage.
- ✓ Colocation of industries that share similar characteristics and opportunities to maximise the use of shared infrastructure, thereby reducing impact footprint.
- ✓ Targeting a low emissions Precinct, including integration of large-scale renewable energy and carbon capture and network that support decarbonisation to achieving net zero.
- ✓ Efficient water use, including recycling where possible.
- ✓ Increasing self-sufficiency in supply chains and manufacturing capacity to provide an opportunity to build local manufacturing and capabilities.
- ✓ Supporting or driving the development of other regional conservation initiatives and ensuring the Precinct planning is well aligned and integrated to these.



Concept image

## ENGAGEMENT

Community and stakeholder consultation is an important part of precinct planning and design. To date:

- ✓ **Over 200 stakeholders** have been engaged
- ✓ **90 briefings** across the community
- ✓ **16 public information forums** including presentations at conferences
- ✓ **8 community information** stalls
- ✓ **5 Cultural Consultative Committee meetings** held
- ✓ **9 individual Larrakia family group sessions** scheduled in Darwin, with more being offered.



Website has had  
**12,000 views**



Social media posts have reached  
**65,000**



The Territory is committed to a Larrakia-led approach, adhering to the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent throughout the life of the project. A Cultural Consultative Committee has been established to support direct engagement with Larrakia families and representatives.

The Committee membership comprises of:

- Larrakia Development Corporation (Chair)
- Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation;
- Gwalwa Daraniki Association Incorporated;
- Northern Land Council; and
- Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics.

A detailed consultation report will be available for public comment as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment. The period for public review and comment for a draft EIS is a minimum of 28 business days. The NT Government has committed to 60 business days to ensure optimal opportunity for public viewing of the document and meaningful engagement.

## TALK TO THE TEAM

DIPL is leading the design and approvals process for the Precinct. Community engagement is an important part of this.

The project team will be at 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 project team are also continuing to offer briefings for those interested throughout 2024. Please email [contact.MASDP@nt.gov.au](mailto:contact.MASDP@nt.gov.au) or call 08 892 46420 to arrange a time.



Concept image

## NEXT STEPS

Listening and responding to your questions and feedback will lead to better outcomes.

Please let us know if there is something about the proposed Precinct you would like to know more about, and we will aim to cover that in a future newsletter.

You can email [contact.MASDP@nt.gov.au](mailto:contact.MASDP@nt.gov.au) and visit the website [middlearmprecinct.nt.gov.au](http://middlearmprecinct.nt.gov.au) to stay informed.

We will reach out again to highlight further engagement opportunities in 2024 and also look forward to sharing with you how we have been addressing key feedback themes, a new project video and a range of website updates.

### CONTACTS

 [contact.MASDP@nt.gov.au](mailto:contact.MASDP@nt.gov.au)

 08 892 46420

 *There's more information online too*

[middlearmprecinct.nt.gov.au](http://middlearmprecinct.nt.gov.au)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

*The Northern Territory Government acknowledges the Larrakia people as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Greater Darwin Region, and their continuing connection to land, waters and communities.*

*We pay our respects to all First Nations people, cultures and elders past, present and emerging.*