



GARY HIGGINS
OPPOSITION LEADER

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BLOW OUT 2018 – Infrastructure

The Territory Treasurer, as well as overseeing a record budget blow out for 2018-19, has failed to understand the difference between Infrastructure Australia and the Northern Australian Infrastructure Facility (NAIF). In Question Time today, she could provide no update to the status of the three Territory projects currently listed on the Infrastructure Australia priority list.

Put simply, NAIF is a lender, Infrastructure Australia is a review body.

The Leader of the Opposition, Gary Higgins asked the following question of the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics.

....Minister, there are just three NT initiatives on the list covering road, water and remote essential services projects and they are still to offer a completed business case before they graduate to Priority Project status.

“Why hasn’t your government put more effort into attaining Priority Project status and what work has been done on the three initiatives since August 2016?”

“The Treasurer’s answer illustrated she does not understand the difference between the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF) and Infrastructure Australia. This is very concerning.

“The Treasurer also failed to explain why there is just three Northern Territory initiatives listed on the Infrastructure Australia current Infrastructure Priority Projects list.

“The Treasurer continues to call on the Federal Government for increased funding yet on these important infrastructure projects she has failed to do the work required, and has not completed comprehensive business cases for each (project).

“The three projects listed by Infrastructure Australia ‘are potential infrastructure solutions for which a business case has not yet been completed.’

“I call on Labor to tell Territorians why the government hasn’t put more effort into attaining Priority Project status and what work has been done on the three initiatives since August 2016?” said Mr Higgins.

ENDS

BACKGROUND:

The NAIF is for approving Commonwealth loans and was the subject of the Kununurra meeting referred to by the Treasurer in Parliament this afternoon.

Infrastructure Australia is *“an independent statutory body with a mandate to prioritise and progress nationally significant infrastructure.”*

The Current Infrastructure Priority Projects list from Infrastructure Australia has just three Northern Territory initiatives listed:

- Provision of enabling infrastructure and essential services to remote Territory communities (Wadeye, Tiwi Islands, Jabiru)
- Upgrade Tanami Road
- Darwin region water supply infrastructure upgrades

Media contact: Georgina Murphy 0432 679 567