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EDITORIAL
NT News

Port lease not 'another TIO'

THE \$506 million leasing of the Port of Darwin to Landbridge Group will provide a massive financial windfall for Territorians. It will also evoke an array of emotions in all us.

Territorians still feel cheated by the sale of TIO and the way it was bulldozed through, complete with job losses.

Admittedly this process has been far more thorough than the TIO sale.

There was a parliamentary committee that explored the issue, visiting ports around Australia.

The Leader of the Opposition, Michael Gunner, was part of that process and presumably it was what led him to believe the port can be developed without selling it.

On the surface the deal announced by the Giles Government yesterday looks a little too good to be true.

The Government is getting a sale price of \$506 million which is more than 25 times the port's last posted profit of \$17 million in 2013/14. Then on top of that it is keeping a 20 per cent stake for five years until an approved Australian owner can buy the share from Landbridge.

It then ensured jobs were "safe" until 2018 when the EBA expires, but with \$35 million to be spent on expanding the port and Landbridge signalling it is likely to spend another \$200 million over 25 years, it appears they will be hiring, not firing, staff.

And if that is not enough the Government has negotiated, for the entirety of the 99-year lease, a 15 per cent share of any "super profits" revenue.

This deal has massive consequences across the board from a development and political perspective. It creates a beachhead for Asian engagement and gives the Giles Government an electoral war chest in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

...and another thing

THE Territory is in line to have highest ratio of women police officers in the country.

The bold new plan to recruit 50-50 male and female police officers starting next year was announced by Police Commissioner Reece Kershaw yesterday.

It's not every day the Territory gets to boast about leading the pack when it comes to innovative measures to address gender inequalities and we tip our hat to the force for leading the pack.

The Fixer

WHAT: A power pole on Freds Pass Rd, Humpty Doo, has been "leaky" for 4½ years. Tourists will soon flock to it for photos.

WHO'S RESPONSIBLE: PowerWater general manager for Power Networks John Greenwood.

CONTACT: 8924 5068.



Do you know of something in the Territory that needs fixing? Give the Fixer a call on 8944 9750, email thefixer@ntnews.com.au or follow on Twitter @NTNTheFixer

Letters to the editor should be kept to 175 words or less. Send your letters to GPO Box 1300, Darwin, 0801, or email ntnmail@ntnews.com.au You must include your name, home address or PO Box number. Name and address will be withheld on request. The Northern Territory News reserves the right to edit letters. Responsibility is taken by the Editor, NT News, GPO Box 1300, Darwin, NT, 0801



Letters

Dangerous debris

HIT a piece of steel the size of a small brick on Tiger Brennan (Winnellie) on Thursday arvo, totalled my front driver's wheel and nearly caused me to roll/flip my Astra.

Thanks you inconsiderate b@#\$\$%^d of a truck driver - now I'm \$130 out of pocket. Glad I wasn't on a motorbike!

Gerald Tubman, Stuart Park

Giles's style riles

I AGREE with Ted Dunstan (Letters to the Editor, NT News, 13/10/15), it was Giles's previous arrogance in decision making that was hampering.

He's still one of most capable we've had at the top. Lifting the bar always ruffles the deadwood on both sides of the house.

Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater.

Shane Nouwens, Coconut Grove

Dirt on everyone

DELIA Lawrie is only interested in those constituents that are politically viable to her.

The majority of constituents will tell you that she has done nothing for them and that they are glad to see the back of her.

It will be interesting to see how many votes she will get as an independent.

It isn't just about how to survive a disaster, it's also about how to recover from one. Recovery can take years, but people who have prepared are more likely to get their lives back on track faster, with less stress and anxiety. - SEE BELOW

The manner in which she has been dumped by the Labor Party clearly identifies that Labor has the same standards as the CLP and are not ready to govern the NT.

It is interesting to note that all the defectors are positive that they are going to be selected as independents, with total disregard of anyone else who might want to have a go.

Willem Westra van Holthe has publicly stated that Delia Lawrie will take the stigma of Stella Maris with her to the next election. He needs to remember that he and Michael Gunner will take the stigma of the banana freckle with them to the next election as neither of them are telling Territorians the truth about the banana freckle eradication program.

AG Piper, Winnellie

Plan for disasters

CYCLONE Tracy, Black Saturday, the Sydney Superstorm, last summer's Waroona Bushfire - Australia knows disasters only too well.

Summer is about to start, bringing with it the increased risk of a natural disaster and, like every year, we have no idea what's coming, or when.

You can be pretty certain some kind of disaster is headed

our way. Lives will be turned upside down, homes damaged, things we hold precious destroyed and people pushed into financial crisis. For some, life will never be the same again.

This October we are calling on Australians to get prepared. Disasters happen, we can't change that, but we can change how they affect our lives.

Being prepared isn't complicated, it's about four things - knowing the local risks, knowing your community, making a plan and having an emergency kit.

It is also about developing a mindset that will help you deal with the emotional and psychological impact of a disaster.

It isn't just about how to survive a disaster, it's also about how to recover from one. Recovery can take years, but people who have prepared are more likely to get their lives back on track faster, with less stress and anxiety.

A key part of that is a plan to protect those irreplaceable things that matter most to you, that shape who you are - that '80s vinyl collection, your kid's teddy bear, your school diary.

Emergencies happen. Take practical steps today to protect those things that are precious

to you. You will never get the chance to go back afterwards to reclaim what you've lost.

Plan not just to survive, but to recover.

There's lots of free resources on the Red Cross website (redcross.org.au/prepare) to help you get ready and make a plan. Share the resources with family and friends and make sure they are prepared too.

Sandra Cannon, executive director, NT Australian Red Cross

Hansard history

IT CAN sometimes be difficult to find things in Hansard so, if I may be of assistance, Peter Cavanagh (Letters to the Editor, NT News, 07/10/15) should check the sittings held 18/08/09 where he will find the CLP and ALP joined forces to reject a motion by Gerry Wood regarding the Inpex workers' village.

By the way, Peter, while seldom right, you are wrong again - I am not a pensioner.

Alan Davies, Howard Springs

Letters hear it

CAIT, Marrara, if you want to join the fray at least put your name on your letters (NT News, 06/10/15) or on the postage stamp you would need to list Gerry's achievements for his electorate.

Peter Cavanagh, Howard Springs

On this day IN THE TERRITORY

10 YEARS AGO: The Territory Government last night vowed to fight "tooth and nail" to stop a nuclear waste facility being built in the NT. And it received strong support from an unlikely source in the CLP.

20 YEARS AGO: Territory football will be broadcast into Asia through Australian television from tomorrow, giving the NT Football League a potential viewing audience of many millions.

25 YEARS AGO: A Darwin tourist attraction that is fighting to survive has won a national tourism award. Indo Pacific Marine was named the country's best local tourist attraction.