

30 May 2017

Public Question from Ms Lia Gill – 21 Lakeside Drive

Common No. 3248668

Please note that the names of individuals and companies have been redacted from these questions and are marked by 'xxxx'.

Q1: At the last second ordinary meeting in March I asked questions regarding the requirement for contract companies hired by the City of Darwin Council to display signage either their company name or the City of Darwin logo on vehicles being used to carry out work for the City of Darwin and why it was ok for the contract company xxxx not to comply with this policy. I was told that this practice relates to the primary use of the vehicles and that if a vehicles primary use is not for City of Darwin then the vehicle will not have a decal or display C of D logo.

Does the C of D Council not provide contractors with magnetic C of D signage that can be used whilst carrying out work for C of D Council and then removed after the work is completed ?

Q2 : In the event that a vehicle is being used to offload in public areas would this logo not be required to be prominently displayed ? Or can City of D Council contractors just follow Council policies when it suits them?

Q3: Council also failed to answer my question as to how could failure to comply with this policy for several years not have been noticed by those overseeing the contracted work by this company , in this case according to Council the superintendent of the contract .

Q4 : Is the Superintendent of the contract in this case also required to inspect contracted work after its completion ?

Q5: Who is the Superintendent of the contract with regard to the contract for work carried out by the company xxxx?

Q6: At the last second ordinary meeting I also asked about why rate payers have had to foot the bill for the removal of so-called "spoils" deposited at drains number 13 and 17 by the C of Darwin Council contractors xxxx.

Council refused to answer this question claiming that I have already asked this question within the last 3 months and received an answer.

Could Council please direct me as to when I asked why we have had to pay for this work and Councils answer to this question , as to the best of my recollections this question has never been answered by Council and I can find no record of ever having asked it before either.

Q7: Council also claim that it has previously responded to these issues as part of the ' Lakeside Drive Treatment Plan'

Please direct me as to where the issue of rate payers having to foot the bill for the sub-standard work of this company was included within the ' Treatment Plan'.

The itemized estimated cost of ' the Lakeside Drive Treatment Plan' is proving to be a very illusive document. Why is that ?

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Q8: At the last second ordinary Council meeting Council also refused to answer my question regarding the stockpile that was deposited behind the pump station at 21 Lakeside Drive.

Please direct me to where Council has already answered questions as to why we , the rate payers are to pay for the removal of this stockpile that was deposited by xxxx in December 2015. I could not find the answer to this question in either the minutes of previous meetings or in ' The Lakeside Drive Treatment Plan' as claimed by Council.

Q9: According to ' The Lakeside Drive Treatment Plan' Council plan to deposit top soil into the area. In my experience top soil is usually not a good idea as there are often weed seeds present in it. Why is it planned to use top soil instead of compost , which would be a better alternative and which would actually help to improve the soil in the area.

Where is this top soil to be obtained from ?

Q10: According to ' The Lakeside Drive Treatment Plan ' update the cleaning up of waste from the Lakeside Drive area is 95% complete. How can that be when there is still tons of waste in the area ? Indeed in some spots it is so deep and compacted that even the weeds cant grow on it.

Did Council merely ensure that the most incriminating of this waste was removed ?

Q11: Weeds are now covering the most damaged parts of this area , predominantly Mission Grass , and as it has not been adequately managed and has now gone to seed it will be spread even further throughout this area and neighbouring properties. This Mission Grass will also prove to be a serious fire hazard once it has dried out and so a further risk to neighbouring properties.

Who is responsible for dealing with these weeds ? Why have they not been dealt with before now ?

Q12: I believe that part of the directive given to the City of Darwin Council by the NT Environmental Protection Authority was to erect signage within 21 Lakeside Drive advising that dumping in the area is against the law and that fines will ensue if perpetrators are caught.

Why has this signage not been put in place? Why is there no mention of this signage in ' The Lakeside Drive Treatment Plan'?