



MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
STATE SQUARE
DARWIN NT 0800

GPO BOX 3146
DARWIN NT 0801
TELEPHONE: (08) 8901 4047
FACSIMILE: (08) 8901 4169

The Right Worshipful Lord Mayor of Darwin
Mr Graeme Sawyer
Darwin City Council
GPO Box 84
DARWIN NT 0801

Dear Lord Mayor

Thank you for meeting me on 22 April 2009 regarding the Secure Taxi Rank (the Rank) located on Mitchell Street and the funding arrangements to enable ongoing operation of the Rank.

As you are aware, the Rank provides increased security for both drivers and passengers, and ensures safe movement of passengers travelling from the Mitchell Street precinct.

I am advised by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure that statistical data gathered to date shows a steady trend upwards in regard to both people and taxis using the Rank. Data also demonstrates that waiting times at the Rank have reduced, with the number of people waiting over 20 minutes steadily decreasing. There has also been a down turn in anti-social behaviour in the CBD.

The Department is now managing a Review and Survey of the Rank which is due for completion in late May. Questionnaires will be used to survey industry, local businesses, residents and Rank users and the results of the surveys, together with the statistical data will form the basis of a report into the Rank's performance. I believe this report should form the basis of determining the future or otherwise of the Rank.

Whilst Darwin City Council has responsibility for the establishment of taxi and minibus ranks within the CBD, the costs associated with the construction and operation of the Rank has been shared between the Council, the Australian Hotels Association and the Department.

Attached for your information is a break down of the costs incurred by the Department in relation to the Rank. As detailed, this includes Council funding for delivery of works such as line marking and signage installation.



In addition to these costs, the Department has funded \$19,000 for the pre-rank survey and the current review, resulting in a total cost to the Department of \$146,368,77.

Whilst there have been delays in reviewing the Rank's operations, I believe an additional extension of three months is appropriate to allow stakeholders time to consider the final report and agree to future arrangements and I strongly encourage the Council to maintain their financial support for this initiative.

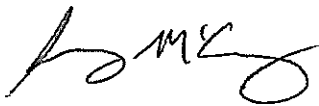
My office has contacted the Australian Hotels Association who are committed to supporting the Rank under the current arrangements for an additional three months, until the end of July.

Notwithstanding the above, I am aware of Darwin City Council's request to the previous Minister for Transport to increase the fine amount for one of the Parking Infringements under the Northern Territory Traffic Regulations. Can Council inform me if there is any relationship between an increase in the fine amount and Council offering ongoing support to the Rank?

I thank you for your consideration to this matter and look forward to the results of the survey.

It is important we use all opportunities for improvement of this positive initiative in providing Territorians with accessible and safe transport alternatives.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerry McCarthy', with a stylized flourish at the end.

GERRY MCCARTHY

28/04/09.

Darwin City Council Secure Taxi Rank - Mitchell Street

Item	Activity	Description	Value
ALL COSTS PAID IN FULL BY DPI.			
DPI - Summary of Works Delivered			
1.	Street lighting upgrade	Installation of a new street light and the two new flood lights. Including power supply.	36,000.00
2.	CCTV	Supply and installation of a total of 6 cameras. These are 5 fixed cameras, and 1 PTZ camera (Pelco Spectra camera) high quality with 35x optical zoom. Which can be integrated into a city-wide system, utilising Indigo for example, should this actually occur. The works included the electrical reticulation and metering to ensure that power usage can be loaded for billing purposes and a UPS.	45,400.00
3.	CCTV	Additional CCTV replacement cost for one damaged camera.	3,475.95
4.	Railing	Supply stainless steel rails and bollards as per Aust standards.	11,672.76
5.	Bench Seat	Supply aluminium bench seat as requested to Darwin Cinema Complex manager and negotiated with DCC.	3,960.47
6.	Garden Bed re-instatement works	Supply and plant vegetation in both the front and side garden beds to improve aesthetics after works, including minor reticulation works and mulching.	
7.	DPI Construction costs	Design, procurement, and on-site management.	6,783.92
Total value works delivered by DPI			107,293.10
DCC - Summary of Works Delivered			
6.	Minor footpath reinstatement works	(On the other side of the road, after the light pole installation)	-
7.	Install a retaining wall in the front garden bed	450 mm high x 200 mm wide rendered and painted 12 lm to provide additional seating capacity and a physical barrier between the footpath and the glass front of the Cinema windows.	-
8.	Extend existing concrete footpath to match into new Cinema front garden bed retaining wall.		-
9.	Clear second garden area , by removing the 2 trees and re-aligning the edging back to the wall improving safety access to the stairs .	Clear and remove selected vegetation and aggregate as required.	-
10.	Remove existing timber log kerbing and replace with 200 mm wide lay back kerbing approx 18 lm.		-
11.	Line Marking	including the removal of existing white parking lines and addition of the yellow outline.	-
12.	Signage	Supply and installation of 2 signs.	-
13.	Rubbish / Misc	Supply and install rubbish bin and cigarette dispenser.	-
14.	Railing	Installation of stainless steel rails and bollards as per Aust standards.	-
15.	Bench Seat	Installation of aluminium bench seat as requested to Darwin Cinema Complex manger and negotiated with DCC.	-
Total value works delivered by DCC			20,075.67

Summary of Costs

Street Lighting Upgrade	36,000.00
CCTV	48,875.95
Railing & Bench Seat - Supply	11,672.76
DPI Construction costs	6,783.92
Garden Bed Re-instatement Works	3,960.47
DCC Delivered Works	20,075.67
Total value works funded by DPI	127,368.77