

Middle Arm Precinct

Newsletter

Quarter 2 2025

This project newsletter is designed to keep you informed and share key information about the Middle Arm Precinct.

Rebuilding the economy

The Middle Arm Precinct will unlock development and help to rebuild the economy.

The precinct will support long-term economic security with substantial flow-on benefits as the project progresses, creating jobs for Territorians, and supporting local businesses and workforce development.

As one of the Northern Territory's most significant infrastructure projects, we're taking a strategic long-term approach to get the master planning right.

We're planning a precinct where industry can confidently do business. A precinct that aligns with environmental regulations, giving community confidence in the activities taking place.

To help achieve this, we're designing infrastructure that can be shared by multiple users and undertaking a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

This work 'de-risks' investment by creating certainty for industries on the availability of infrastructure and services, and a clear road map of the rigorous and efficient development and environmental approvals.

Critical infrastructure

Effective investment in infrastructure is essential for rebuilding the economy. An economy that plays to our strengths, outpaces the nation and benefits all Territorians.

The project is currently in the planning and design stage, attracting industries focused on:

- low emission liquefied natural gas
- renewable energy
- carbon capture, utilisation and storage
- minerals processing
- hydrogen.

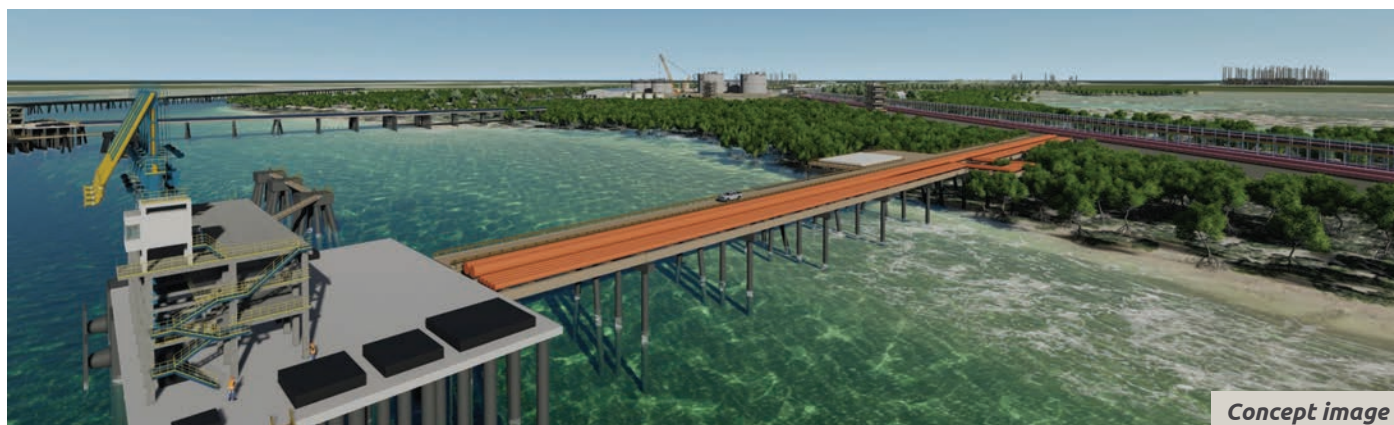
Infrastructure is being master planned to be shared by facilities which will operate in the precinct. By doing this, we can eliminate wasteful spending, minimise impacts and avoid unnecessary duplication.

This includes a shared shipping channel, module offloading facility, and a common use facility.

Master planning is also considering:

- new roads and road upgrades
- a renewable energy network
- service and product corridors
- water and wastewater management services
- a carbon capture, utilisation, and storage hub.

Proponents will also be developing jetties as part of their projects.



Concept image

Looking forward

We are progressing environmental investigations under the Strategic Environmental Assessment process to move the project forward and activate the economy.

The preliminary draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has undergone full adequacy review. Over the coming months, we will continue responding to key matters from the review.

The draft EIS describes how impacts will be avoided, mitigated, or offset (where necessary or appropriate) to ensure the long-term protection of the environment.

Measures to avoid and mitigate environmental impacts will be built into the precinct program.

This will be applied in accordance with the requirements of the *NT Environmental Protection Act 2019* and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, and associated [Terms of Reference](#) (ToR).

Future stages of the project will include a process of public and regulator review of the impact assessment documents.



Environment

Many studies have been and will continue to be completed to inform the impact assessment documents, 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.

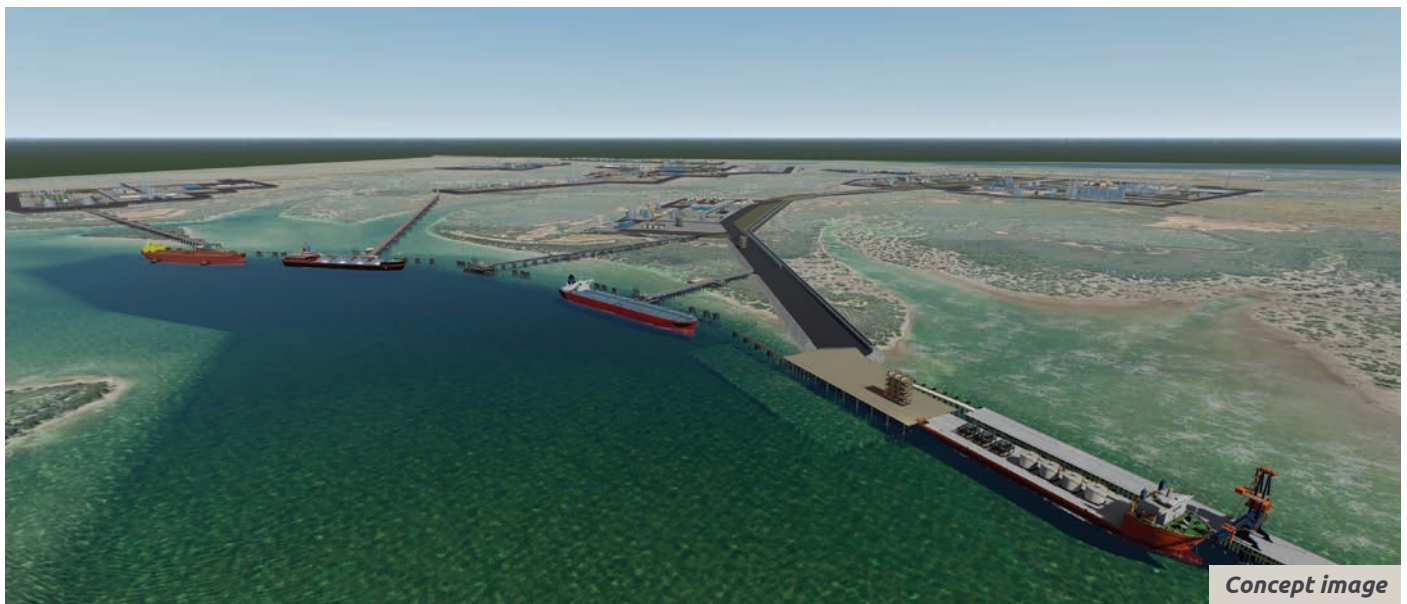
We are currently conducting surveys to support the development of avoidance and mitigation measures.

For example, we are progressing additional shorebird surveys to support the draft EIS and the development of avoidance measures.

Identified avoidance areas will be included in the project development area during precinct construction and operations. Construction activities adjacent to avoidance areas will also be subject to additional temporal avoidance conditions.

We are also focused on streamlining the draft precinct program which describes the scope of development and includes specific commitments. Key work underway includes preparing implementation plan(s) that describe how outcomes and objectives will be achieved.





Engineering

We continue refinement of master planning and are coordinating with potential industry proponents to support infrastructure delivery.

To date, concept design work includes:

- shipping channel and turning basin dredging programs
- marine infrastructure, such as product jetties and module offloading facility design
- marine navigation and traffic study
- shared infrastructure such as roads, water and electricity supply, service and product corridors, drainage, wastewater treatment and land layouts.

Our goal is to avoid inefficient overcapitalisation wherever possible, and to prioritise infrastructure that supports multiple users — not just a single proponent. This includes a module offload facility that can allow multiple user access for construction and maintenance operations over the life of the precinct.

The Middle Arm channel design and positioning takes advantage of the existing INPEX and inner harbour channels. Shipping traffic assessments found a one-way channel is likely to be sufficient to minimise the dredging footprint.

Our project team continue to explore ways to reduce potential dredging impacts. This includes an options assessment for dredge scenario development, which considers volumes, schedule, methods and sediment calculations.

Stay informed

As we move forward, we invite you to stay informed.

We were pleased to be a part of this year's Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) Congress. This major event brought together planning professionals and decision-makers from across the country to share ideas, build networks, and explore the opportunities and challenges shaping planning.

Our team provided a project briefing following a study tour around Darwin which focused on industry and economic developments in the NT. We thank the delegates for their questions and interest in the project.

There will be opportunity to provide further feedback as the project progresses through the [stages of the Strategic Environmental Assessment](#).

You can also [head over to our website](#) to find out more information about the precinct plans.