



24 Jul 2015

Northern Territory News, Darwin

Section: General News • Article type : News Item • Audience : 14,595 • Page: 4  
Printed Size: 65.00cm<sup>2</sup> • Market: NT • Country: Australia • ASR: AUD 365 • Words: 142  
Item ID: 439364821

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Page 1 of 1

## Interstate tender win hammered

CONSTRUCTION Industry lobby Master Builders NT has questioned the Territory Government's decision to grant the construction manager tender for the \$150 million Palmerston Hospital to interstate company Lend Lease.

Contractual arrangements stipulate that Lend Lease will have to use 90 per cent local labour and materials, but Master Builders NT executive director Dave Malone said there were local companies capable of managing such a project.

"It's a flagship project politically, and to the construction industry as well," he said. "There is more than sufficient capacity and capability in our local industry to deliver this project on time and on budget. The last thing we would want to see is a project carpark full of interstate-plated vehicles."

But Health Minister John Elferink said Lend Lease had been selected from five applicants, in part due to its experience in building dedicated healthcare projects.