LANDBRIDGE GROUP MEDIA STATEMENT

18 November 2026

Landbridge Group (**Landbridge**) denies that it has engaged with the Commonwealth in any commercial discussions or negotiations in relation to the divestment of the lease of the Port of Darwin. Landbridge has at all times made it clear to the Commonwealth that it was not a willing seller of the Port and does not intend to enter into any commercial negotiations with the Commonwealth for the sale of the Port to allow the Prime Minister to fulfil an election promise or otherwise.

Landbridge was left with no alternative but to take steps to protect its legal rights and lodge a formal dispute under the Australia-China Free Trade Agreement (**ChAFTA**).

Landbridge's position remains that it lawfully acquired the lease through an open, competitive and government-approved process and on the basis of clear commitments and expectations that long-term infrastructure investments in Australia would be protected. Three separate Commonwealth reviews found no national security basis for intervention, and the Government has not explained why forced divestment is now necessary or why Australian taxpayers should bear the significant cost of acquiring or transferring the lease and the expense of these legal proceedings simply to meet an expensive election commitment.

A decision by the Commonwealth to forcibly divest a 99-year lease prior to its expiry is inconsistent with the contractual commitments that were made, and breaches international laws.

Landbridge looks forward to the Tribunal's consideration and in the meantime expects that until a decision is made by the Tribunal, that the Commonwealth will not take any steps in breach of its international law commitments and allow Landbridge the opportunity for its claim to be properly heard and determined in accordance with the commitments made by the Commonwealth under the ChAFTA.

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