

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Ms Martin

to Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries

Operation Flying Fish

1. What was the final total expenditure incurred by the Minister on Operation Flying Fish. What were the break down of these costs eg helicopter hire, staff time, consultants and other items.
2. Were any consultants engaged or other external advice obtained from outside your department in preparing and or overseeing this operation. If so, what was the nature of that advice, who was engaged and at what cost.
3. If a consultant was engaged was that consultant Territory based. If Not, was the consultant flown to the Territory and what was the cost of the consultancy, include details of accommodation, fees, flight costs etc.

ANSWER

1. The total cost of the operation is \$14,700 (preliminary figure). The breakdown of that figure is as follows:

Helicopter hire	\$4,200
Fuel	2,500
Construction materials (cages etc)	2,500
Engagement of additional staff	2,000
Overtime	1,500
Travelling allowance	<u>2,000</u>
TOTAL	\$14,700

2. No consultants or advice external to the NT Government were used in preparing or overseeing "Operation Flying Fish". In the process of planning for the operation, Fisheries Division consulted with other relevant government departments.

In regard to consultants, Dr Mallen-Cooper, a fish passage expert from New South Wales, had previously been retained by the Department of Transport and Works, soon after the fish kill at Carmor Creek in 1997, to provide advice on fish passage. Modifications to the spillway at Carmor Creek since "Operation Flying Fish" were carried out as a result of his advice.

3. Not applicable.