

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Agribusiness and Fisheries:

Commercial Fishing Operations in Aboriginal waters

1. How many compliance patrols were been completed in the 22/23 and 23/24 financial years in relation to Aboriginal waters that have been closed by Traditional Owners? If none, when was the last date a compliance patrol was completed? Could you provide a breakdown of patrols completed by the compliance team in the 22/23 and 23/24 financial year, including if they resulted in any prosecutions?
2. What are the fisheries management concerns that have been raised by Traditional Owners in relation to Aboriginal Waters that have been closed in the last 3 years?
 - a. What have you done to address these concerns?
 - b. How have you relayed this information back to Traditional Owners?
3. In 2022, the compliance team took over some functions of the Water Police.
 - a. How many full time equivalent staff does the compliance team have?
 - b. How is the team managing such a vast area of coastline and waterways?
 - c. How is the compliance teams prioritising areas?
 - d. How is the compliance team addressing reports of fishers operating illegally in Aboriginal Waters?
 - e. What is the Government doing to work with the compliance team and NT Police to support Traditional Owners with sea country management?
 - f. What measures are in place to ensure independence of the compliance unit when they sit within the licencing, and therefore revenue generating, agency?
4. How can Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) data be accessed by ranger groups and land councils to monitor vessels travelling in and out of Aboriginal Waters?