

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**WRITTEN QUESTION**

Mr Elferink

to Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

Kings Creek Area – Emergency Service Support

The Kings Creek area is still without proper police or emergency service support in spite of a large number of tourists moving through the area every year. Apart from the minor support that has been afforded at this stage to the people who work and live in the area, what medium to long term approaches will you put in place to address the serious shortcomings in service delivery in the area?

ANSWER

During the last 6 months, the Watarrka/Kings Canyon/ Kings Creek area was provided with the following enhanced emergency service measures:

A comprehensive UHF Radio coverage of the whole area, and highway approaches out to 30km, facilitated by the Northern Territory Emergency Service. This was made possible by the installation of radio repeaters at Santos Mereenie Tower to the northeast and on the Kings Creek area Telstra Tower to the south. Radio equipment, both base station/ vehicle and hand-held was supplied to Kings Canyon Resort, Kings Creek Station, the Kings Canyon Health Clinic, and to the Watarrka Parks and Wildlife Ranger HQ.

The 11 Northern Territory Emergency Service Volunteer members at Watarrka have undertaken training in Road Accident Rescue, Vertical Rescue, and Radio Communications.

The Volunteer Unit, currently a sub-unit of Ntaria (Hermannsburg) is fully equipped with motorised Road Accident Rescue equipment, Vertical Rescue equipment and a rescue trailer. The Parks and Wildlife Ranger headquarters and the Kings Canyon Resort have four (4) portable fire units comprising of a tank and pump, which can be placed on any utility at their disposal.

The matter of a Police Station for the area is under evaluation at this time including advice from Treasury on the funding details.

Presently Kulgera, Yulara, Ntaria and Alice Springs Police provide services to the area. Kulgera and Yulara are three (3) hours away by sealed road (300km+), and Ntaria via the Mereenie Loop Road (200km+). Each Station contributes to the conduct of one patrol per month (four in total), depending on operational contingencies; each patrol lasts three (3) days, and incorporates two (2) nights at Kings Canyon. Calls for emergency response are serviced by the most appropriate police resource under the circumstance.