

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Parks and Rangers:

#### **Ranger Training**

Recently there have been several concerning reports regarding illegal entry, hunting and fishing in Aboriginal Land and Sea Country. I understand that the change to legislation last term meant that rangers could become Conservation Officers with greater powers.

**1. How many rangers from my electorate have completed the training and become Conservation Officers?**

The Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security (the Department) is working closely with a broad range of stakeholders through the Aboriginal Ranger Compliance Working Group to develop and deliver a comprehensive compliance program for Aboriginal Rangers. This includes development of an appropriate compliance training course specifically designed for Aboriginal ranger groups across the Northern Territory. Our key partners on the working group, the Northern Land Council, are currently piloting a new introductory compliance training course, the Certificate II in Government (Ranger Compliance Support). They are planning to roll out three pilot courses this year starting in March. The training will be contextualised for local conditions and compliance issues relevant to Aboriginal rangers working on country. It is expected that independent ranger groups will also participate in the training including rangers from the Dhimurru, ASRAC and Laynhapuy ranger groups.

**2. What funds have been allocated under the current budget for this process to continue?**

The Department is working within its existing budget to ensure the development of the program and is building partnerships with stakeholders, such as the Australian Government to identify co-investment and funding options to ensure Aboriginal rangers have the appropriate support mechanisms to avail themselves of the new category of Aboriginal rangers as Conservation Officers.

**3. How many rangers are anticipated to complete the training within this financial budget year?**

It is anticipated that up to 100 Aboriginal rangers will get the opportunity to complete this training in 2021.

**4. And how is the Government ensuring Aboriginal ranger groups are adequately authorised and resourced to patrol, police and protect their country?**

The Department will continue to work with all key Aboriginal stakeholders to ensure the administrative and management systems and processes that will support the program are in place and are efficient and effective for all parties. With introduction of the Amendment Bill completed, and with sound administrative, management and authorising mechanisms in place, Aboriginal Rangers will be able to gain the qualifications and experience required to attain Aboriginal Ranger Conservation Officer Status.