

Question No: 181

Question: Development of Crocodile Proposals

Date: 17/11/92

Member: Mr PARISH

To: MINISTER for INDUSTRIES and DEVELOPMENT

1. Has any application for government assistance been made to the Northern Territory government regarding development of crocodile proposals submitted by Dr Graeme Webb.
2. If the answer to question 1 is yes, what are the details of the funding sought.
3. Has any form of funding or assistance been approved regarding the development of crocodile proposals; if so, what are the details.

ANSWER

1. Dr Graeme Webb sought Northern Territory government funding for a proposal for the development of a World Crocodile Centre at Howard Springs. This proposal was presented to the Department of Industries and Development in January 1990.
2. Dr Webb proposed assistance as follows -
 - (a) assistance by government departmental staff during the establishment phase;
 - (b) subsidised water and electricity charges;
 - (c) a commitment from government that it will avail itself of the research services being provided through the World Crocodile Centre; and
 - (d) finance assistance to be negotiated in a form and at a level that is consistent with the commercial viability of the project.
3. No funding or assistance was approved. Dr Webb withdrew his proposal in June 1990.

Recently, however, further discussions have taken place with Dr Webb regarding reviewed proposals for development. Those discussions are at a preliminary stage and whether or not they will translate to a formal request for financial assistance has not been determined.