

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Health:

Water Management

1. In its Interim Report on National Water Reform this year, the Productivity Commission found that the Northern Territory was not meeting its obligations under the National Water Initiative and highlighted significant shortcomings with the Northern Territory's water planning framework. Could you advise:
 - a. The Northern Territory's response to these findings and steps it intends to take to improve water management in the Territory; and;
 - b. How much funding/resourcing has been committed to the reform process?

2. In the Territory Water Plan, the NT Government committed to establishing a Strategy Water Advisory Council and an Aboriginal Water Advisory Council by 2024. Could you advise:
 - a. What progress has been made in establishing these Councils; and;
 - b. What funding is allocated to these Councils?

3. I understand the Department is currently undertaking public consultation on draft standard conditions and risk criteria for exploration activities and extractive operations in the Northern Territory. Could you advise:
 - a. What the Department is doing on the ground to speak to affected communities in the Territory about the reforms (and in particular, Aboriginal communities most affected by mining);
 - b. What resources are being put towards reviewing and implementing feedback on the standard conditions and criteria arising from this consultation, noting that the consultation period closes two weeks before the government goes into caretaker mode.