



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 239

WRITTEN QUESTION

J Davis to the Minister for Parks and Wildlife, Hon Marie-Clare Boothby MLA:

Wildlife Culling Permits

The answer to Written Question No. 203 of the 15th Assembly disclosed two permits to take or interfere with protected wildlife at Newcastle Waters Station, including permit 77403 authorising the taking of up to 15,000 galahs and 5,000 little corellas using alphachloralose with manual euthanasia.

1. Can the Minister outline the assessment process used by the Department before approving permits to destroy protected native wildlife, including what evidence applicants must provide to demonstrate that significant impacts are occurring and that lethal control is justified?
2. Are there formal assessment guidelines used by departmental staff when considering these applications?
 - a. Does the Department undertake independent verification of information provided by applicants?
 - b. In each of the five years to 2025–26, how many applications for permits authorising lethal control were granted, and how many were refused?
 - c. If applications are not counted in that form, in which system are they recorded and in what format?
3. What non-lethal management measures are applicants required to implement, trial or demonstrate as ineffective before the Department will consider approving lethal control?
 - a. Is there a minimum period for which non-lethal measures must be trialled before a permit is considered?
 - b. What evidence must applicants provide to demonstrate that non-lethal measures have failed?

- c. Are applicants required to consider emerging or innovative non-lethal techniques before lethal control is approved?
- 4. How does the Department assess and verify claims made by applicants regarding wildlife impacts, including economic losses, operational disruptions or risks to infrastructure?
 - a. Does the Department require independent evidence of claimed losses or impacts?
 - b. Are site inspections undertaken before permits are issued?
 - c. How are environmental and ecological values weighed against economic considerations?
- 5. In assessing an application under section 56 of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976, what consideration does the decision-maker give to the potential ecological impacts of the proposed control, including effects on local wildlife populations, ecosystem function and predator–prey relationships?
 - a. Is post-control monitoring required as a condition of permit, and is it required to be reported to the Department?
 - b. How does the decision-maker assess the risk of impacts on non-target species?
 - c. Are cumulative impacts across multiple permits within a region considered in the assessment under section 56?
- 6. What actions has the Government taken to support industry and landholders to develop, implement and access effective non-lethal wildlife management solutions as alternatives to culling?
 - a. Has the Government funded research or pilot programs into non-lethal wildlife management techniques?
 - b. What support is available to landholders seeking to implement non-lethal alternatives?
 - c. Is the Government developing a Territory-wide strategy to reduce reliance on culling permits over time?
- 7. In respect of permit 77403 disclosed in the answer to Written Question No. 203:
 - a. What post-control monitoring and reporting is required under the permit conditions, and will the results be published?

- b. What independent verification of bird numbers, non-target impacts and method compliance is required under the permit conditions?
- c. In assessing that application, did the decision-maker have regard to any estimate of the regional population of the two species and, if so, can that material be tabled?