



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 248

WRITTEN QUESTION

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

Parks Fire, Weed and Pest Management

Budget Paper No. 3 for 2026–27 sets, for the Parks and wildlife output, a 2026–27 target of at least 90 per cent for strategic fire, weed and pest management projects completed within Territory parks and reserves — the same target as 2025–26, against a 2025–26 estimate of 100 per cent — together with a target of 142 rangers and a visitation target of 3.4 million, each unchanged across 2025–26 and 2026–27.

1. How many strategic fire, weed and pest management projects were included in the 2025–26 program, and how many were completed?
 - a. Who determines which projects are included in the program, and at what point in the year is the program set?
 - b. Were any projects removed from the program during 2025–26 and, if so, how many and for what reason?
 - c. Are projects removed during the year counted in the denominator of the reported figure?
2. For each of 2023–24, 2024–25 and 2025–26, what area in hectares within Territory parks and reserves was subject to prescribed burning, and what area to weed treatment?
 - a. Please provide by park or reserve or, if that breakdown cannot be provided, as a Territory-wide total for each year.
 - b. If these areas are not compiled in that form, in which system are they recorded and in what format?
3. Is the figure of 142 rangers an establishment figure or a count of filled positions?
 - a. As at 30 June 2026, how many ranger positions were vacant, and for how long has each been vacant?

- b. How many rangers were employed in each of 2021–22 to 2025–26?
- 4. What area in hectares has been added to the Territory parks and reserves estate since 1 July 2021, and by the declaration of which parks or reserves?
 - a. Was any increase to ranger numbers sought or provided in connection with those additions?
- 5. In each of 2024–25 and 2025–26, what proportion of fire, weed and pest management work within Territory parks and reserves was delivered by departmental rangers, and what proportion by contractors?
 - a. What was the expenditure on contracted fire, weed and pest management work in each of those years?
- 6. The answer to Written Question No. 98 of the 15th Assembly stated that an expression of interest for a Gamba Coordinator was to be released in late July 2025 for a period of six months, with the coordinator to commence in late September or early October 2025.
 - a. On what date did the coordinator commence, and is the position currently filled?
 - b. Was the position extended beyond six months and, if so, to what date?
 - c. What area of gamba grass was treated in Litchfield National Park in each of the 2025 and 2026 control seasons?
- 7. What is the current estimated area of gamba grass infestation within Territory parks and reserves, and how does that compare with the estimate for each of the preceding three years?
 - a. If a Territory-wide estimate is not maintained, for which parks and reserves is an estimate held?