

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Ms J Carney
Heritage

to Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and

Daly River Region community reference Group

Minister your government established the Daly Region Community Reference Group in 2003:

1. How many people were on this group, who were they.

The final report from the Daly Region community reference Group was delivered to cabinet in December 2004, and to date this report has not been tabled in parliament:

1. Why have you not tabled this report earlier.
2. Will you provide me with a copy of the final report and if not, why not.
3. What was the total cost of the development of this report.
4. Why is another group being assembled to address the same issues.

ANSWER

1. The Daly River Community Reference Group (CRG) comprised 20 representatives from a range of backgrounds. Membership was:

Name	CRG Role	Affiliation
Rick Farley	Chair	Independent consultant
Deputy Chair and Chair of Expert Reference Group	Jim Forwood	Chair, Landcare Council of the NT
Sectoral representatives	Stuart Kenny	NT Cattlemen's Association
	Jim Forscutt	Katherine Town Council
	Mark Casey	Naiiyu Nambiyu Community Government Council
	Henry Boer/Peter Robertson	Environment Centre, NT

	John Harrison	Amateur Fishermen's Association of the NT
	Gary Higgins	Katherine Region Tourist Association
	John ETTY	NT Horticultural Association
	Dan Halloran	NT Agricultural Association
	Lawrence Costa	ATSIC
Chair of Indigenous Values Subcommittee	John Daly	Northern Land Council
	Kezia Purich	NT Minerals Council
	Sharon Hillen	Community representative
	Robert Bright	
	Rosemary Sullivan	
	Harold Sinclair	
	Rod Illingworth	
Indigenous Values Subcommittee	Mona Liddy	Wagiman
	John Sullivan	Malak Malak

1. The report of the CRG raised a large number of issues, which required careful consideration prior to Government decisions and the release of the report. The report strongly stated that the knowledge base to inform decision making for the Daly Region is incomplete, particularly in relation to the aquatic ecosystems of the Daly, the relationship between groundwater aquifers and river flow and the values Aboriginal people attach to land and water. This prevented the CRG from completing the tasks it was given by the Chief Minister and the then Minister for Lands and Planning. These deficiencies in data and information will be remedied to give the community confidence in future development of the Daly Region.

2. The report was made available to the public via the then Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment web site in June 2005.

3. The total cost of the CRG process, and related work with the Aboriginal Reference Group, was \$375,498.

4. Government responded to the CRG report by:

1. Extending the moratorium on land clearing in the Daly Region;
2. Committing to the establishment of an adaptive management framework for future development of the Daly Region;
3. Establishing the Daly River Management Advisory Committee; and
4. Commitment of \$3.5M over four years to fund community engagement processes and the

acquisition of further knowledge as identified by the CRG report.

Members of the community involved in future management of the catchment will not be doing the same job as the CRG. The proposed Daly River Management Advisory Committee will oversee implementation of the CRG's key recommendations, build new monitoring systems, and establish new processes for open decision-making and review. They will not only ensure the health of the river and its surrounds, but promote well considered development and conservation goals that take account of all of the region's values and the aspirations of all its people.