

**Question No: 108**

**Question: Costs of Todd River Flooding**

**Date: 12/05/92**

**Member: Mr TIPILOURA**

**To: MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS**

1. What has been the annual cost of Northern Territory government flood relief payments resulting from flooding of the Todd River for each of the following financial years -

- (a) 1978-79;
- (b) 1979-80;
- (c) 1980-81;
- (d) 1981-82;
- (e) 1982-83;
- (f) 1983-84;
- (g) 1984-85;
- (h) 1985-86;
- (i) 1986-87;
- (j) 1987-88;
- (k) 1988-89;
- (l) 1989-90;
- (m) 1990-91; and
- (n) 1991-92 to date.

2. What has been the estimated annual repair cost for damage to private property resulting from flooding of the Todd River for each of the following financial years -

- (a) 1978-79;
- (b) 1979-80;
- (c) 1980-81;
- (d) 1981-82;
- (e) 1982-83;
- (f) 1983-84;
- (g) 1984-85;
- (h) 1985-86;
- (i) 1986-87;
- (j) 1987-88;
- (k) 1988-89;
- (l) 1989-90;
- (m) 1990-91; and
- (n) 1991-92 to date.

3. What has been the estimated annual repair cost for damage to public property resulting from flooding of the Todd River for each of the following financial years -

- (a) 1978-79;
- (b) 1979-80;
- (c) 1980-81;
- (d) 1981-82;
- (e) 1982-83;
- (f) 1983-84;
- (g) 1984-85;

- (h) 1985-86;
- (i) 1986-87;
- (j) 1987-88;
- (k) 1988-89;
- (l) 1989-90;
- (m) 1990-91; and
- (n) 1991-92 to date.

4. What is the estimated construction cost of the latest proposal for a dam on the Todd River.

5. What is the estimated annual maintenance cost for the latest proposal for a dam on the Todd River.

6. What is the opportunity cost of the estimated construction cost for the latest proposal for a dam on the Todd River.

7. What is the estimated annual preventable damage that would be associated with the latest proposal for a dam on the Todd River.

### **ANSWER**

1. This question is answered within the confines of eligible expenditure of the Northern Territory government for Personal Hardship and Distress measures under the Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements Agreement for Southern Region floods.

Financial Year \$

- (a) 1978-79 nil
- (b) 1979-80 nil
- (c) 1980-81 nil
- (d) 1981-82 nil
- (e) 1982-83 5 189
- (f) 1983-84 nil
- (g) 1984-85 nil
- (h) 1985-86 nil
- (i) 1986-87 nil
- (j) 1987-88 104 769
- (k) 1988-89 17 280
- (l) 1989-90 7 250
- (m) 1990-91 nil
- (n) 1991-92 nil to date

2. The Northern Territory government does not maintain records of costs for repairs to private property. Individual insurance companies may be able to supply this information.

3. This question is answered within the confines of eligible expenditure of the Northern Territory government and Local Councils for the Restoration of Public Assets under the Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements Agreement for Southern Region floods.

Financial Year \$

- (a) 1978-79 nil

- (b) 1979-80 nil
- (c) 1980-81 nil
- (d) 1981-82 nil
- (e) 1982-83 832 483
- (f) 1983-84 896 351
- (g) 1984-85 410 378
- (h) 1985-86 nil
- (i) 1986-87 nil
- (j) 1987-88 1 198 000
- (k) 1988-89 7 307 000
- (l) 1989-90 4 609 000
- (m) 1990-91 nil
- (n) 1991-92 nil to date.

4. The estimated cost of the partially full dam in 1991 (April) dollars was \$21.7m. Allowing for subsequent escalation, the estimate in May 1992 dollars is \$22.1m. This estimate is subject to the normal processes of design and tender. It includes the residual value of the work (\$1m) already carried out.

5. The annual operational and maintenance cost of the dam is estimated in May 1992 dollars as \$85 000 per annum.

Difference between this amount and that in the EIS for the full dam (pp 74-75 of Vol 1, p 12-15 Appendix 5 Vol 2) are -

- (a) escalation;
- (b) silt and debris removal at sacred site (extent still subject to negotiation with traditional owners);
- (c) variation in sediment transfer;
- (d) clearing of debris; and
- (e) maintenance of pump and reticulation system.

6. As construction of the dam can no longer proceed, the question of opportunity cost is no longer applicable.

7. The Average Annual Preventable Damage (AAPD) has been assessed at \$540 000 (October 1990 dollars). The calculation of AAPD is a complex matter and the attention of the honourable member is drawn to the EIS for details.

NOTE: Response to Parts 1-3 have been supplied by NT Treasury.