

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Parks and Rangers:

Ranger training

- 1. Could you advise how many rangers have become Conservation Officers across the NT and in which regions?**

To date, no Aboriginal rangers have been appointed as Conservation Officers under section 92(1)b of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976*. A Compliance Framework (containing compliance procedures, policies and guidelines), and the tailored training package to support these appointments is being finalised.

- 2. Could you advise if Ranger Groups are expected to bear the cost of this training, and how much it is?**

Certificate II Government (Ranger Compliance) training is being developed through a collaboration between Charles Darwin University and the Parks and Wildlife Commission (Commission), and in consultation with Northern Land Council. It will be offered to ranger groups at a greatly subsidised rate.

- 3. Could you advise how many rangers are expected to be trained as Conservation Officers in the 23/24 financial year?**

Approximately 40 Aboriginal ranger groups have expressed interest in pursuing this training, with individual groups identifying up to 20 Rangers for training.

Over the next two years, it is predicted that up to 240 Aboriginal Rangers will undertake training and apply for Conservation Officer status.

4. Could you advise once these rangers have become trained, what extra resources have been provided to increase their capacity to patrol and protect country and waterways?

Funding was provided for the Commission to appoint an Aboriginal Ranger Compliance Coordinator. Over the last 12 months work has been undertaken to develop the systems and programs required to support Aboriginal Rangers in increasing their compliance capacity, including: development of the tailored Certificate II Government (Ranger Compliance), finalisation of the suite of procedures, policies and guidelines that make up the Commission's Compliance Framework and direct on the ground support and capacity building for compliance activities with several ranger groups including Mimal, Dhimurru and Yirralka.