

Estimates Committee 2009 Questions Taken On Notice

(16/6/2009 to 19/6/2009)

Date: 18/06/2009 Output: 3.0 - Natural Resources
Sub Output: 3.3 - Water Resources
Subject: Arsenic concentration project - consultant - cost - details

From: Ms Kezia Purick to Hon Alison Anderson
Natural Resources Environment and Heritage

Question: **8-21**
The department is undertaking a project to examine localised high arsenic concentrations in ground water in the Darwin and rural area, and I understand the project aims to identify the source of the arsenic and to determine if bore construction influences the concentrations measured at the wellhead? As this project was due to be finished late last year, can you tell me what the project is about, who undertook the work, and at what cost?

Answer:
Answered On:
Answer:

The Groundwater Arsenic Concentrations project was undertaken in response to a report to the Department of Health and Community Services from a private consultant (Dr K. Boland from Tropical Water Solutions Pty Ltd) regarding the incidence of elevated Arsenic concentrations in bores in the Lake Bennet region.

Contrary to advice provided at Estimates Committee that the work was externally funded, the project was undertaken internally by the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport's staff. The project commenced in September 2003 and was completed in 2007. A report published in 2008, Report No 19/2008D "Groundwater Arsenic Concentrations in the Darwin Region", is available on the Department's website as WRD08019.

The project cost the agency approximately \$76 000 in salaries and \$7 500 in water sampling operational costs