

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr. Higgins to the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources:

#### **Gamba Action**

1. Minister, will you commit to allocating additional resources for gamba control in next year's budget?

This Government has increased funding for weed management across the Northern Territory and will continue to assess gamba management as part of the Budget 2020-21 process.

In 2018, this Government allocated additional ongoing funding of \$0.3M per annum to reduce the risks associated with gamba grass infestation. This funding provided for a dedicated Compliance and Enforcement Manager and a Compliance Technical Officer to address community safety and environmental risks related to gamba grass and enforce landholder obligations. It has also enabled the implementation of a risk based compliance framework for weed management. The framework was specifically developed to address the high risk of fire posed by gamba grass where land managers were not accessing resources through the Gamba Action Program (GAP) and were failing to comply with the legislation.

This Government has continued its support of the GAP which provides advice, free equipment loans and herbicide to private landholders with the support of partners including Bushfires NT. The GAP generates engagement with over 2000 landholders each year and has been in place since 2010.

In 2018, this Government also introduced funding for gamba grass projects through the Environment Grants Program and the Aboriginal Ranger Grants Program to support land management projects; this includes capital grants for equipment to manage gamba grass.