

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage:

Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority funding

1. The protection of sacred sites has lost \$1.3 million in funding. Budget Paper 3 states that is because of an increase in self-generated revenue. Please advise how much the increase in self-generated revenue is? And is it sustainable ongoing income or will the NTG be required to commit to future funding of this amount?

The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (the Authority) is partly funded by the Northern Territory Government output appropriation and partly by its ability to generate its own income through the issuing of Authority Certificates under the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act (NT) 1989*.

The Authority's output appropriation and self-generated income in 2023-24 reduced as per the below table in 2024-25:

Income Type	2023-24 \$000	2024-25 \$000	Variance \$000
NTG Output Appropriation	4,263	3,243	-1,020
Self-Generated Income	3,000	2,500	-500
TOTAL	7,263	5,743	-1,520

The two reasons for the reductions is:

1. Output Appropriation – the reduction of \$1.02 million in 2024-25 is due to the end of a two-year output appropriation funding increase to assist the Authority's short-term personnel growth to support sacred site clearance requests for major development activities and a legislative reform priority project. This funding ceased in 2024-25 and the Authority has reverted to its baseline output appropriation funding.
2. Self-Generated Income – the reduction of \$0.5 million in 2024-25 is due to the Authority reverting to its baseline self-generated income budget each year. During each financial year the Authority assesses its performance and projections, it then adjusts its self-generated income budget based on its projected performance, noting that the baseline budget of \$2.5 million is its minimum income level to fund business as usual activities.

The 2024-25 budget and beyond supports the day-to-day activities of the Authority, additional output appropriation is only sought to fund projects or initiatives that are beyond the day-to-day business activities of the Authority. The Authority's ability to generate its own income through the issuing of Authority Certificates also provides flexibility and is sustainable as evidenced throughout its sound fiscal management. Should the Authority's remit broaden, additional output appropriation would be sought in accordance with any additional functions or responsibilities beyond its current responsibility.