

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Higgins to the Minister for Primary Industry and Resources:

#### **Appropriation Bill – Primary Industry and Resources**

Please provide copies of:

- All questions, which you have received from the public in relation to the Estimates process and consideration of the Appropriation Bill for the 2017/18 financial year; and
- the answers to those questions that were presented to the Estimates Committee.

Please provide the information requested below for Agencies and Government authorities for which have responsibility, as at 31 March 2017.

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<b>DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRY AND RESOURCES</b>
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*Please accept apologies if questions are not under the correct Output. Where this is the case, it would be appreciated if you could indicate the appropriate Output in your response. Thank You.*

#### **OUTPUT GROUP: PRIMARY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT**

#### **OUTPUT: MARKET AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT**

1. The budget papers indicate that there are “13 enterprise and market development projects for the Territory agricultural sectors”. Please provide a list of these with a brief explanation of the purpose and cost of each.
2. Why did the number of projects decline from 13 to 12?
3. The budget papers state there are only two “aboriginal economic development and producer support programs” compared with 4 in the PEFO. Why were the two programs stopped?
4. Please provide a list of the two current programs, with a brief explanation of the purpose and cost of each, as well as the two programs which have stopped.

5. The budget papers state the government is “facilitating critical infrastructure investment planning to support project development and improve access to regional areas”. Please provide some examples from the past year of the department facilitating critical infrastructure planning.
6. The budget papers also state the government is “Supporting local skills development and employment among industry”? Please provide some examples of that from the past year.

### ***Overseas Trade Delegation to China***

1. It is understood that four officials from the Department of Primary Industry and Resources travelled to China in late 2016.
2. What were the outcomes of this trip?
3. Were there any agreements signed as a result of the trip?
4. Was any new investment brought to the Territory as a result of this trip?
5. What was the cost of the trip?

### **OUTPUT: PLANT INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT**

1. A strategic issue for the agency is “collaborating with industry stakeholders to expand markets and new investment”. Please give some examples of expanding markets over the past year in this output.
2. The budget papers state that the government is “protecting Territory primary industries from exotic pests and diseases”. What exotic pests and diseases have been issues over the past year and what is the current status of these pests?
3. The budget papers state that there are 19 programs that develop plant industries. Please provide a list of these programs, including the purpose and cost of each?
4. \$1.9 million is being spent over four years including \$1.4 million of Commonwealth and industry funding to develop best management guidelines for nitrogen in mangoes that maximises production and minimises greenhouse gas emissions. How much money is provided by industry for this program?
5. What are the results so far?
6. If this program is successful, what will the benefits be to the industry?

7. Please provide more information about the evaluation of banana clones for their resistance to panama disease?
8. Where is the evaluation taking place?
9. Who is doing the study?
10. \$1.8 million is being spent over 3 years (including \$1.2 million from Horticulture Innovation Australia) to develop management options for cucurbit growers to mitigate cucumber green mottle mosaic virus (CGMMV). How is the study going?
11. What is the annual cost to NT industry of CGMMV? What is meant by mitigation in respect to this program? What are the criteria for success with this program?

#### **OUTPUT: LIVESTOCK INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT**

1. The budget papers state that there are 9 “programs to support the development of the Territory livestock industry and its major markets.” Please provide a list with each program, its cost and its purpose.
2. How does this output differ from the previous Market & Enterprise Development output?
3. Is the \$100,000 Indigenous Pastoral Project within this output?
4. Where was the funding for the project from?
5. Why did it end?
6. What were the results of the program? Who undertook the evaluation?

#### **OUTPUT: MAJOR ECONOMIC PROJECTS**

1. According to the budget papers there is just one regional agriculture precinct development project. What is this project, what is the estimated cost and the purpose of the project?
2. Is this the only activity in this output?
3. Please define “agricultural precinct”.
4. What specifically does creating an agricultural precinct look like?

5. When will the project end, and what will be different about Katherine once it is complete?
6. Are other agricultural precincts planned?
7. Is this related to Katherine becoming an “inland port”?
8. Please define “inland port”.

## **BIOSECURITY AND ANIMAL WELFARE**

1. The budget papers state that there are 13 “biosecurity projects and programs that support preparedness, monitoring and responses to pest and disease incursions, animal welfare and chemical use.” Please provide a list of those programs, their cost and their purpose.
2. \$500,000 is listed in the Budget Papers to protect Territory waters from aquatic pests and diseases. Please break down this expenditure and expand on which pests and diseases are targeted.
3. There is a grant for \$214,000 in the budget for the banana freckle eradication program plus further Commonwealth appropriations under the National Partnership Agreement. What are these funds for at this stage of the program?
4. Does banana freckle funding make up the bulk of the \$5.5 million drop in Commonwealth funding in this area?
5. Why have biosecurity fees expected to half for 2017-18 (from \$298,000 to \$147,000)?
6. What animal welfare is the department responsible for?
7. Is the department responsible for animal welfare for all types of animals?
8. If the department isn’t responsible for some types of animals, who is responsible?
9. Some councils have rules surrounding dogs and maybe cats, but what about other types of animals?
10. Who is nominally responsible for those issues?
11. Should this be clarified?
12. Please provide details about the “wild dog bite prevalence project”?

13. Where was the funding for this program from?
14. What are the stated outcomes of this program?
15. On 27 January it was announced that \$10,000 was granted to Ark Aid to perform free cat desexing for 120 concession card holders in Palmerston and Litchfield.
16. How many cats for concession card holders have since been desexed for free for this \$10,000?

## **OUTPUT: FISHERIES**

1. The budget papers state there are 8 “projects that facilitate Aboriginal economic development opportunities”. Please list these 8 programs, the cost of each, and the goal or purpose of each.
2. The budget papers state that 82% of fish stocks are assessed as sustainable. Please explain where the stocks are unsustainable and what steps are being taken to improve this situation?
3. There is \$1.3 million to develop Aboriginal commercial fishing and aquaculture capacity, and to operate an Aboriginal marine training program in Nhulunbuy. Please break down that spending further.
4. AFANT was provided with \$185,000 of Industry Development funding. How was this amount set? How is this grant assessed and acquitted?
5. How much is spent on aquaculture?
6. What will be the end result of this component if the program is successful?
7. The Darwin Aquaculture Centre is listed as raising \$271,000 in financial year 2017/18 under “Sales of goods and services”. What kind of goods or services does the Centre provide and how much do these services cost?
8. Fisheries License fees are also listed as raising \$177,000. How are fishery license fees calculated?
9. How many fisheries pay these license fees?
10. \$50 million was promised for recreational fishing in this term of government. How much of the \$50 million is provided for in the budget papers for financial year 2017/18?
11. How will it be decided what the rest of the \$50 million will be spent on?

12. Who is currently on the Recreational Fishing Advisory Council?
13. Please explain the current status of Project Sea Dragon from a Northern Territory Government perspective.
14. What timelines has the proponent provided to the Northern Territory Government?
15. How much money has been allocated to breeding programs and what fish are currently being bred for release in our waterways to increase fish stock?
16. How much money has been allocated to continue the Neighbourhood Fishing Program of breeding Barramundi fingerlings and releasing them into lakes such as Manton Dam, Sanctuary Lakes and Durack Lakes? Is this program being expanded into new waterways such as the Zuccoli lakes, Durack Heights Lakes and Marlow Lagoon?
17. How will the continuation of the Neighbourhood Fishing Program incorporate a strong educational component so that young Territorians are educated in aquaculture, flora and fauna, catch and release fishing, sustainability, water safety, biodiversity, tropical waterways and other related topics?

## **OUTPUT GROUP: RESOURCE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT**

### **OUTPUT: INDUSTRY REPORTING**

1. The budget papers state there have been 2800 statutory industry reports and sample submissions processed. Please break down that number.
2. How many statutory industry reports were processed and how many sample submissions?
3. Please provide examples of a statutory industry report? Please provide an example of the processing of a sample submission?
4. There are historic opportunities with four new federal Free Trade Agreements (China, South Korea, Japan and India). Is it time to lift our exports from 5% of GSP and capitalise on these historic FTAS?

## **OUTPUT: GEOSCIENCE AND INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

1. The budget papers state that the decrease from 125 “Geoscience products developed and updated” at PEFO to 80 in this budget is due to the “incorporation of geoscience products, previously distributed as raw data, into large-scale interpretive value-added reports”. Please provide some examples of these “large-scale interpretive value-added reports”?
2. Why is a target rating for the Fraser Institute Annual Survey a key performance indicator? Should the performance indicator be the actual rating (in 2016 the Northern Territory came 20<sup>th</sup>) rather than the one the department aspires to? (in 2016, the target rating is 10<sup>th</sup>).
3. What is the government’s plan to achieve this target of the 10<sup>th</sup> most attractive jurisdiction in the world for exploration and mining investment? Please provide a copy.
4. Please provide a list of the “investment attraction and promotional events” measured in the budget papers and the cost to the Northern Territory Government for each?
5. How many people are employed in the mining industry in the NT? How many are resident NT workers ? How many are fly in / fly out?

## **OUTPUT GROUP: MINING SERVICES**

### **OUTPUT: MINERAL TITLES MANAGEMENT**

1. The budget papers explain the drop in mineral exploration licences granted as being partially due to the streamlining of licencing requirements. What licencing requirements were streamlined and how did this reduce the number of licences granted?

### **OUTPUT: MINING OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT**

1. There is an increase in the “Mine planning documents assessed”. The budget paper notes that “the increase is due to the publication of mine plans (including revised mine plans) as part of transparency improvements.” Why does the publication of mine plans mean that more mine plans have to be reviewed? Are revised mine plans being resubmitted?
2. The number of mine planning documents assessed bounces from 465 in the 2016/17 Budget, to 310 at PEFO, to 480 for the 2017/18 Budget. Please explain the drop at the PEFO in the key performance indicator table?

3. The number of general inspections conducted bounces from 300 in the 2016/17 Budget, to 188 at PEFO, to 315 for the 2017/18 Budget. Please explain the drop at the PEFO in the key performance indicator table.
4. Please explain departmental policy on security bonds? Are they confidential. Are they confidential even if the Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) makes an application for them to be made public? Does the EDO determine departmental policy on which security bonds are public and which are confidential?
5. From a Northern Territory Government perspective, what is the current status of the plans to rehabilitate Jabiru? Is DPIR the lead agency for this rehabilitation? What are current timelines?
6. Will the machinery of government and consolidation of environmental regulation in DENR changes affect environmental monitoring and regulation?

#### **OUTPUT: LEGACY MINES**

1. Please list 6 legacy mine projects and the funding allocated to each?
2. On 1 February 2017 it was announced that the “government will also ensure 40 per cent Indigenous employment for contracts associated with legacy mines programs issued in the Tennant Creek Region”. Has that target been met? If not, why not?
3. How many Indigenous people are employed on these contracts?
4. How many people are employed under these contracts?
5. What proportion of the employment for legacy mines contracts in the Tennant Creek program have been Indigenous?
6. Did this employment include any training, skills or apprenticeships?

#### **OUTPUT GROUP: ENERGY SERVICES**

##### **OUTPUT: ENERGY MANAGEMENT**

1. What tasks are within this output area?
2. According to the budget paper the number of energy applications assessed has dropped from 300 in the 2016/17 Budget to 100 in the 2017/18 Budget. It is presumed that this is due to the moratorium and



scientific inquiry. In the meantime, what activity is still occurring for these energy applications?

3. Are public servants from this area working on the scientific inquiry? If so, what tasks are they performing?

## **OUTPUT GROUP: CORPORATE AND GOVERNANCE**

### **OUTPUT: CORPORATE AND GOVERNANCE**

#### ***Staffing***

1. How many Full Time Equivalents are currently employed within this Agency, broken down by Output and Business Unit?
  2. How many Full Time Equivalents have resigned, retired, taken a redundancy package or have been made redundant, or terminated? Please break down these numbers by Output and Business Unit?
  3. What has happened to these positions? Has the work been reallocated to existing staff?
  4. Are there any plans to fill these positions in the near future?
  5. It is noted the Department has 193 corporate credit cards. Is that many necessary?
  6. The department spent \$14,291.15 with Mitchell Consultancy Services of South Australia with no tender or EoI for “Managing Workplace Change for Success, The People Matter Survey Response Workshop, Doing the Right Thing (Code of Conduct) Workshop”. Please elaborate on what this training was about. Are there no companies which provide this training in the NT?
  7. The department spent \$2,700 for a “desktop assessment of HR services” with 4 interviews with no tender or EoI? Please provide a copy of this report?
  8. The department spent \$23,131 to “provide a proposal on the CXO Advisory Program to enable strategic decision making” with Tech Research Asia from New South Wales with no tender or EoI. Please provide more details about this consultancy. How did the department become aware of Tech Research Asia’s services?
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