

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Higgins to the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics:

Crown Land

- Budget Paper 3, p89 – the explanatory note relating to the \$7.8M reduction in funding for Crown Land says the decrease “mainly reflects one-off repairs and maintenance funding in 2017-18 as part of the economic stimulus program”. Under precisely which “economic stimulus program” were these one-off R&M works done? Would you please outline which one-off R&M projects under the Crown Land output were completed?**

\$7.8 million was allocated to Crown Land Estate as part of Government stimulus funding in 2017-18.

Following is a list of the projects completed under the economic stimulus program:

Project
Stormwater drain maintenance in the Darwin region.
Additional funding to support core ongoing repairs and maintenance projects in the Darwin region.
Cullen Bay cliff face repair and replacement fencing.
Geospatial Infrastructure and maintenance in various sites in remote areas.
Removal of African Mahogany trees on Vacant Crown Land (VCL) in the Darwin region
Clearing of sediment basins, drains and road maintenance in the Darwin, Palmerston and Howard Springs areas.
Asbestos management on VCL in Darwin, Howard Springs and Tennant Creek.

Maintenance work on various Territory owned buildings leased to community service agencies.
Eradication of Gamba Grass on priority VCL parcels in the Darwin rural area.
Frances Bay Mooring basin A row concrete repairs works.
Air conditioning system replacement at the trade training center building.
Roystonea Avenue low flow storm water drainage pipe clean and repair.
Stormwater drain maintenance in the Alice Springs region.
Stormwater drain maintenance in the Katherine region.
Casuarina Street park maintenance in the Katherine region.
Removal and maintenance of African Mahogany trees in the Katherine township.
Katherine Low level additional bridge repairs, painting and signage works.
Removal of category A weeds from Roystonea Avenue stormwater retention basin.
Installation of fire breaks to support controlled burning program (NTFES) in the Darwin Emergency Response Area.
Cyclone Marcus cleanup on VCL parcels in the Darwin, Palmerston and Howard Springs areas.
Implementations of dust control measures on Crown land.
Transfer of road and verge maintenance to City of Palmerston.
Frances Bay Mooring basin emergency plans.
Frances Bay Mooring Basin concrete repairs works.
Fisherman's Wharf Mr. Barra laneway replacement.
Frances Bay Raptis wharf fabrication and installation of new ladders.
Frances Bay Hornibrook Wharf removal and reinstatement of pontoon.

2. How large is the current Crown Land estate across the Territory?

The Crown Land Estate is approximately 52 287 square kilometers in size.

- 3. Last year the government told us they were “investigating site options” for appropriate land to accommodate growth in the logistic industry in Alice Springs – what came of those investigations?**

The department has identified a number of lots available on the private market, in addition to vacant Crown land within the Alice Springs Regional Land Use Plan as suitable for accommodating and supporting the logistics industry.

- 4. How much Crown Land is currently subject to interest of other parties such as native title holder?**

10.8% of the Northern Territory is subject to a current Native Title claimant application*. To determine accurately how much of that 10.8% is Crown land would take considerable time and resources.

* Data taken from the National Native Title Tribunal website.

- 5. What is the size of the Crown Land component of the site for the proposed Water Park project and how much is the site worth?**

This question needs to be redirected to the Department of Trade, Business and Innovation.

- 6. Would the government be selling or leasing the land for development?**

This question needs to be redirected to the Department of Trade, Business and Innovation.

- 7. What Crown Land has been identified as alternative sites for a new Youth Detention Centre?**

The Department in conjunction with other agencies is investigating appropriate locations for youth detention centres in Darwin and Alice Springs.

- 8. In BP3, p94, under the KPIs 3,624 Crown land parcels across the Territory are managed for “public safety and to meet statutory requirements”. Would you please outline the meaning of that KPI? Please give us an example of what it entails.**

The KPI reports on the number of Crown land parcels identified in the Government Land Register, at a point in time, that are under the care and control of the Department.

Crown land is managed to meet statutory land owner obligations under the *Fire and Emergency Act*, *Bushfires NT Act*, *Weed Management Act*, *Litter Act and Waste Management and Pollution Control Act*. Urban Crown land parcels are also maintained for amenity.

- 9. What and where is the largest Crown Land parcel which comes under the above KPI? What and where is the smallest?**

The largest Crown Land parcel is located at Section 1, Hundred of Parsons (at the base of the Cox Peninsula) which is 372 square kilometres and 70 hectares.

The smallest Crown land parcel is located at Lot 4206 Town of Palmerston (near the Palmerston Water Park) which is 52 square metres.

- 10. There are 700 Crown leases managed “to ensure compliance with conditions”. Please give us an example.**

Crown leases are granted for community infrastructure and to encourage development on Crown land released for residential, commercial or industrial purposes.

Crown leases fall into three broad categories being:

- development leases, where land is sold at market value, which include a right of conversion to freehold title upon completion of development;
- short term commercial leases for temporary uses, such as feasibility studies or the INPEX Workers Village, which attract an annual rent; and
- community purpose leases granted at nil cost which remain as leasehold title.

11. On p95 of BP3, against the title of “native title, land claim and Aboriginal land issues progressed or resolved”, the number is 23 – is that 23 outstanding native title and land claims? If not, please list for us all the outstanding native title and land claims in the Northern Territory and the timeframe for resolution of each.

The Aboriginal Land Unit operates in conjunction with the Solicitor for the Northern Territory which provides legal services and advice, and with the Aboriginal Land Strategic Policy Unit of the Department of Chief Minister, which focuses on the development and implementation of whole of Government policies relating to land and sea ownership delivering on the economic and social aspirations of Aboriginal Territorians.

There are 41 outstanding Aboriginal Land Claims (LC) in the Northern Territory.

- Daly River Region LC No. 172
- Douglas Daly River LC No.183
- Fitzmaurice River Region LC No. 189
- Peron Islands LC No. 90
- Woolner/Mary River Region LC No.192
- Daly River Region 11 LC No. 235
- Finniss River Region LC No. 237
- Katherine Region LC No. 240
- Legune Area LC No. 188

- Gregory National Park/Victoria River LC No. 167
- Wakaya Alyawarra (repeat) LC No. 130
- Coburg Pensinsula LC No. 6
- Anthony Lagoon Area LC 74
- Ngombur (repeat) LC No.93
- Alligator Rivers Area 111 (Gimbat Goodparla) LC No. 111
- Kakadu Region (repeat) LC No. 179
- Kakadu (Jim Jim) Area LC No. 122
- Upper Daly (Repeat) LC No. 128
- Wakaya/Alyawarre (Repeat) LC No. 130
- Wulna (NT Portion 2001) LC No. 155
- Ban Ban Springs Area LC No.182
- Coomalie Shire/Deepwater Area LC No. 238
- Finnie River Land Claim No. 39
- Mataranka Area LC No. 69
- Lower Daly LC No. 68
- Lower Roper River LC No.70
- Maria Island and Limmen Bight River LC No.71
- Maria Island Region LC No. 198
- McArthur River Region LC No. 184
- Manangoora Region LC No.185
- Lorella Region LC No. 199
- Garrwa (Wearyan & Robinsons River Beds and Banks) LC No. 178
- Seven Emu Region LC No. 186
- Wollogorang Area 11 LC No. 187
- Western Roper River LC No. 141
- Roper Valley Area LC No. 164
- Mataranka Area (NTP 916) LC No. 129
- Elsey Region LC No. 245
- Frances Well LC No.64
- Belyuen Area LC No. 241
- Kenbi LC No. 127

There are 51 active Native Title Claims in the Northern Territory.

- Town of Pine Creek
- Jinka Jervois Pastoral Leases
- Powell Creek Pastoral Lease
- Banka Banka West Pastoral Lease
- Banka Banka East Pastoral Lease
- Jawowyn Katherine Native Title Claim (Katherine #3)
- Tennant Creek Pastoral Lease
- Nathan River Pastoral Lease
- Limbunya Pastoral Lease
- Wave Hill Pastoral Lease
- Pine Hill West
- Lorella #2 Pastoral Lease
- Billengarra #2
- Section 674 Hundred of Cavenagh
- Hidden Valley Pastoral Lease
- Buchanan Downs Pastoral Lease
- Nutwood Downs Pastoral Lease
- Hodgson River Pastoral Lease
- Section 2934 Hundred Of Strangways
- Larrimah Township Pastoral Lease
- Helen Springs Pastoral Lease
- Lorella-Nathan River
- Pine Creek #3
- Burrumurra
- Dalmore Downs South
- Mallapunyah/Creswell
- Roper Valley North
- Helen Springs
 - Powell Creek
 - Creswell/Benmara
 - Dalmore Downs
 - Humbert – VRD

- Chatterhoochee
- Ban Ban Springs
- Douglas North
- Kiana Calvert
- Larrimah
- Mt Drummond
- Mary River West
- Banka Banka
- Old Mount Bundey
- Mount Keppler
- Billengarra
- Lorella Downs
- Lot 1348 Katherine
- Pine Creek No.2
- Pine Creek
- Katherine
- Bradshaw Station
- Jabiru Township
- Urunpunga Station

The timeframe of resolution cannot be provided as each case is dependent on negotiations between stakeholders and Federal Court hearings.

12. How much Crown Land, as in size, is currently under claim through native title and land claims?

Refer to Question 4.