

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

7th Assembly

12/01/1996

87. **Monitoring of Crocodile Farms**

Ms. MARTIN to MINISTER for PRIMARY INDUSTRY and FISHERIES

QUESTION

1. Does the Northern Territory Department of Industry and Fisheries conduct on-farm monitoring of crocodile farms.
2. If the answer to Question 1 is yes, what has been the inspection schedule for the past three years.
3. Is a programme in place for future years; if so, what is the proposed programme.
4. Have any crocodile farms or regions been excluded from monitoring; if so, why.
5. Have all scheduled inspections been conducted; if not, why not.
6. What guarantee has the Northern Territory Government that all regulatory requirements are being met.

ANSWER

Answered on 22/05/96

1. Yes. Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries conducts on-farm monitoring of NT crocodile farms.
2. For the past three years DPIF has monitored crocodile numbers through regular monthly returns from all farms stating crocodile numbers, numbers processed and the amount of meat and skins produced.

In 1994 an inventory of all yearling stock was carried out on the two largest farms.

In 1995 a full audit was conducted on all farms. All farmed animals in the NT were counted. These figures were correlated with the returns lodged by the farms.

3. Yes.

A full audit will be conducted on each NT crocodile farm every 2-3 years, or as necessary.

Annual inventories of all new stock will be conducted at the end of each year, as the previous season's hatchlings are moved into the raising pens as yearlings.

A record of crocodile numbers will be maintained from the monthly returns provided by all farms.

4. No.
5. Yes.
6. All on-farm regulatory functions are carried out, as required by CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species), under a Management Plan approved by the Australian Nature Conservation Agency (ANCA). DPIF officers, authorised under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*, monitor adherence to the Management Plan by monitoring monthly returns from farms and by regular on-farm audits.