



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 303

WRITTEN QUESTION

J Davis to the Minister for Mining and Energy, Hon Gerard Maley MLA:

Mining Regulation and Fit and Proper Person Testing

1. Nathan River Resources, owner of the Roper Bar iron ore mine, entered voluntary administration in late May 2026, with administrators appointed across five group entities and total creditor liabilities reported in excess of \$300 million — including more than \$2 million owed to the Northern Land Council, more than \$6 million in unpaid royalties to the NT Government, and at least \$968,000 in unpaid wages. What work is done by the Department to ensure that those granted a mineral licence are fit and proper persons?
2. What does a fit and proper person assessment involve, and what financial capacity checks are included?
3. How many staff are employed to regulate the mining industry?
4. What assessment has been made of whether the regulator's funding and powers are sufficient to prevent a recurrence, including recovery of unpaid royalties and protection of worker entitlements?
5. Budget Paper No. 3 for 2026–27 sets a target that at least 85 per cent of licensed high risk mining sites undergo a compliance inspection, and that at least 85 per cent of environmental (mining) licence applications are screened within two business days and assessed within statutory timeframes.
 - a. How many mining sites are classified as high risk, and how many were inspected in each of the three years to 2025–26?
 - b. On what basis is a target of 85 per cent set for the inspection of high risk sites rather than 100 per cent, and which sites went uninspected in 2025–26?
 - c. How is a site classified as high risk, in which document is that classification recorded, and how often is it reviewed?
 - d. How many environmental (mining) licence decisions were made outside the statutory timeframe in 2025–26?