

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**WRITTEN QUESTION**

Ms Purick to Minister for Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources

**Voluntary Contribution Projects**

In the area of voluntary primary industry projects, could you advise:

1. How many voluntary contribution projects have there been over the last 12 months?
  2. How many projects are there currently?
  3. What are the current projects about?
  4. How long have the current projects been operational?
  5. What is the level of industry contribution?
  6. How does the department engage the industry operator or sector in the current projects?
  7. What are the objectives of the current projects?
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| Project Title   | Time frame | Due completion date | How long have the projects been operational | What is the level of industry contribution   | How does the department engage the industry operator or sector in the current projects |
|---|------------|---------------------|---|--|--|
| <b>EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS</b>   |            |                     |   |  |  |
| Quality management to enhance effective supply chains for mangoes and rambutans in Nusa Tenggara Barat, Indonesia and Australia                     | Jun-08     | Feb-12              | 3.5yrs                                      | No formal industry contribution, however trial work is carried out onfarm.                   | Report to industry through Research Forums. Collaborative trials with Industry.        |
| Integrated tropical passionfruit production systems in South Sulawesi   | Jun-08     | Dec-11              | 4 years                                     | No formal industry contribution, however trial work is carried out onfarm.                   | Report to industry through Research Forums. Collaborative trials with Industry.        |
| Impacts of deforestation and afforestation on greenhouse gas emissions, and carbon and water resources in the Daly River catchment, north Australia | Dec-10     | Nov-13              | 2 years                                     | No formal industry contribution, however trial work is carried out onfarm.                   | Report to industry through Research Forums. Collaborative trials with Industry.        |
| Reducing skin damage and improving efficiency of Calypso mango  | Mar-11     | May-14              | 1 year                                      | Industry contributes \$80,000 to HAL for 5 years which makes up part of the project funding. | Report to funding Body   |
| Agriculture transforming to adapt to climate change ; peanut industry expansion in the NT as a blueprint.   | Mar-10     | Jun-12              | 3 years                                     | No formal industry contribution, however trial work is carried out onfarm.                   | Report to industry through Research Forums. Collaborative trials with Industry.        |
| To investigate closed production systems for ornamental ginger production   | Jul-11     | Jun-15              | 0.5 years                                   | Will be asked to contribute \$8,000 towards the project.                                     | Report to funding Body + industry forums   |
| <b>INTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS</b>   |            |                     |   |  |  |
| Development of mango rootstocks   | Jul-10     | ongoing             | 1 year                                      | No formal industry contribution, however trial work is carried out onfarm.                   | Report to industry through Research Forums. Collaborative trials with Industry.        |
| Development of the rice industry in the NT  | Jul-10     | Jun-11              | 1 year                                      | No formal industry contribution, however trial work is carried out onfarm.                   | Report to industry through Research Forums. Collaborative trials with Industry.        |

| Group  | Project Title  | Project aim (lay terms)   | Time frame | Due completion date        | How long have the projects been operational          | What is the level of industry contribution  | How does the department engage the industry operator or sector in the current projects  |
|--------|--|---|------------|----------------------------|--|---|---|
| PP 1   | Precision Pastoral Management Tools Project  | To develop precision forage and livestock management software tools for use by pastoral managers                                      | 2011-2015  | Jun-15                     | 12 Months  | The PPMT project involves 9 research partners, with 8 more to become involved during the life of the project. We have, to date, engaged with 17 small (<20 staff), 5 medium (20 -199 staff) and 9 large (>200 staff) organisations. Some of these research partners will be making available their livestock and properties to enable staff to carry out the research. At this stage it is not possible to ascertain the level of contribution. | Pastoralists have been informed of the project through articles in Department newsletters of the WA and the NT governments and from media interviews with ABC radio in the NT and SA. Pastoralists have also been informed about the project during one-on-one discussions about what the project should deliver for the pastoral industry. There will continue to be engagement with the pastoral industry through focus groups, steering committees, print, radio, television and social media, field days and by engaging 6 cattle stations to be involved in the research and demonstration of the Precision Pastoral Management System. Pastoralist involvement and awareness of the project is critical to it's |
| PPC 3  | Tenderbuff Development and Supply.   | Provide a local market for high quality buffalo meat as an alternative to the live export market.                                     |            | Ongoing                    | Since 1990   | Industry supplied many of the animals in the trade. Buffalo were sourced from a wide variety of producers for both direct sale or for fattening at BHF.   | Feedback sheets were supplied to all producerstaking buffalo to the abattoir.   |
| PPC 4  | Riverine Buffalo and Crossbreeding Project.  | Increase the numbers of purebred Riverine buffalo to a 100 head herd to supply good quality breeders for the meat and dairy sectors.  |            | Ongoing                    | Since 1994 the first Riverine buffalo were imported. | Private producers have their own buffalo running at BHF on agistment to enable access to latest genetics and good management conditions. Agreement with NTBIC to 50% ownership of the purebred herd first imported from the US. \$2.50 per head per week for agistment fees once weaned   | The Dept is an Associate member of the NTBIC and provides input at most meetings held and also provides the venue   |
| PPC 5  | Enhancing Productivity Improvements in the Australian Water Buffalo Industry.      | Develop a multi-pronged approach to increase buffalo production efficiency in meat and dairy buffalo in Australia.                    | 2007-2012  | Feb-12                     | 5 Year project                                       | Private producers have their own buffalo running at BHF on agistment to enable access to latest genetics and good management conditions. Agreement with NTBIC to 50% ownership of the purebred herd first imported from the US. \$2.50 per head per week for agistment fees once weaned   | Industry will be advised through the production of a manual for Buffalo Management.   |
| PPR 10 | Rangeland Burning trials - Barkly Tablelands.                                      | Improve understanding of the role of fire as a pasture management tool on the Mitchell Grasslands of the Barkly Tablelands.           | 2002-2007  | Project Completed Aug 2011 | 2002-2007=6 yrs                                      | Financial contribution difficult to estimate. In-kind includes paddocks to conduct burning trials, grading firebreaks, accommodation and meals for researchers.   | The research is conducted on pastoral stations. Industry advises on research priorities via the Barkly Research Advisory Committee.   |
| PPC 11 | North Australian Beef Fertility Project. (Cash Cow)                                | Measure how much different factors affect reproduction in beef cattle   | 2007-2012  | Mar-12                     | 2007   | Estimated in-kind value from industry 9000 head (15 herds) for 3 years @ \$20/head = \$540,000 total  | Station provides cattle and pay the costs of mustering and management. DoR provide data collection and analysis   |
| PPR 18 | Carrying Capacity Project (CCP)  | Intensive soil and pasture data collection to calibrate locally-relevant pasture growth models across important land types in the NT. | 2003-2008  | Jun-12                     | 2003-2008 = 6 years                                  | Financial contribution difficult to estimate. In-kind includes providing areas of paddocks to measure pasture growth, grading firebreaks, accommodation and meals for researchers.  | The research was conducted on >10 pastoral stations. Industry advises on research priorities via the Katherine and Alice Springs Pastoral Advisory Committees and the Barkly Research Advisory Committee.   |
| PPR 19 | Identifying optimum levels of pasture utilisation on Pigeonhole and Mount Sanford. | Determine sustainable utilisation rates on black soils in the VRD.  | 2003-2008  | Jun-12                     | 2003-2008 = 6 years                                  | Heytesbury Pastoral was a major financial partner. Industry contribution in the order of \$1.8M.  | The research was conducted on Pigeon Hole station. Industry advised on research priorities via the Katherine Pastoral Industry Advisory Committee. Producers attended field days.   |
| PPR 21 | Newcastle Waters cell grazing trial.   | Determine the costs and benefits of a cell grazing system in the Barkly region.   | 2003-2005  | Jun-12                     | 2003-2005=3 years                                    | Financial contribution difficult to estimate. In-kind included use of paddocks and cattle for research, grading firebreaks, weighing cattle, providing a research assistant, accommodation and meals for researchers.   | The research was conducted on Newcastle Waters station. Industry advises on research priorities via the Barkly Research Advisory Committee.   |
| PPC 22 | Analysing the variations in weight gain performance of cattle.                     | Identify the causes of variation in liveweight gain in cattle on NT cattle stations.  | 2007-2012  | Mar-12                     | 2007   | Industry in-kind contributions estimated at 11 mobs, 250/mob @ \$20 = \$55,000 total  | Station provides cattle and pay the costs of mustering and management. DoR provide data collection and analysis   |

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| PPC 23 | Industry initiative to improve heifer performance in the NT.  | Research and demonstrate ways of improving the fertility of heifers on commercial properties in the NT   | 2004-2009   | Main project 31/12/2009. Extension of Teyon work ongoing |   | Industry in-kind contributions estimated at -500 heifers x 2 years @ \$20/head = \$20,000  | Station provides cattle and pay the costs of mustering and management. DoR provide data collection and analysis   |
| PPR 24 | Land Type Specific Sustainable Practice Guidelines for NT Pastoral Lands  | Test a new cost-effective technique for estimating safe pasture utilisation rates.   | 2009-2010   | Project Completed Dec 2010                               | 2009-2010 = 2 years                         | Financial contribution difficult to estimate. In-kind included time spent assisting researchers (1 day per property, 8 properties), accommodation and meals for researcher.            | The research was conducted on 8 pastoral stations. Industry advises on research priorities via the Katherine and Alice Springs Pastoral Advisory Committees and the Barkly Research Advisory Committee.                             |
| PPR 25 | Developing sustainable carrying capacities in the NT - Tennant Creek  | Intensive soil and pasture data collection to calibrate locally-relevant pasture growth models across important land types in the NT.  | 2006-2010   | Jun-12   | See PPR18 above.                            | See PPR18 above.   | See PPR18 above.  |
| PPR 26 | Developing sustainable carrying capacities in the NT - Alice Region   | Facilitate improved rangeland condition across Northern Australia through the development of methodologies for objective assessment of carrying capacity, including calibration of pasture growth models, for the Alice Springs region; and provide pastoralist with the capacity to make decisions on seasonal and long-term stocking strategies. | 2006 - 2012 | Dec-12   | See PPR18 above.                            | See PPR18 above.   | See PPR18 above.  |
| PPR 31 | Developing improved on-ground grazing practices and industry strategies for beef production enterprises across northern Australia to adapt to climate change. | Evaluate and demonstrate business models and management practices that improve the resilience and performance of pastoral businesses. Sister project to BNP0564.   | 2009-2012   | 01/05/2012   | 2009 to 2012 = 3 years                      | Financial contribution difficult to estimate. In-kind included time spent assisting researchers, attending workshops, meetings and field days. Accommodation and meals for researcher. | Research being conducted on two pastoral stations. Producers attended workshops and field days. Industry advises on research priorities via the Katherine and Alice Springs Pastoral Advisory Committees .                          |
| PPR 32 | On-farm demonstration of adaptation and mitigation options for climate change across northern Australia.  | Evaluate the animal production, land condition, financial and emissions performance of a range of business models and management practices under current and future climate scenarios. Sister project to BNP0616.  | 2010-2012   | 24/07/2012   | 2010 to 2012 = 3 years                      | At least \$87,000 (producer time, paddocks and cattle for use in research, attendance at field days, meetings, accommodation and meals for researchers)                                | Research being conducted on seven pastoral stations. Producers attended workshops and field days. Industry advises on research priorities via the Katherine Pastoral Advisory Committee and the Barkly Research Advisory Committee. |
| PPC 33 | Phosphorous Project   | To determine the response to P supplementation using different strategies and to develop a diagnostic test for P deficiency.   | 2011-2012   | 30-Dec-12  | 2010  | Industry in-kind estimated at 650 cows x 1.5 years @ \$20/head = \$19,500  | Station provides cattle and pay the costs of mustering and management. DoR provide data collection and analysis   |
| PPC 35 | PDS Bulk contract   | Conduct 6 Producer Demonstration Sites in the Northern Territory   | 2010 - 2015 | 31-Jul-15  | 2010  | Industry in-kind estimated at 485 head x 2 years @ \$20 = \$19,400   | Station provides cattle and pay the costs of mustering and management. DoR provide data collection and analysis (Growth Promotant trial)  |

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| BS    | Viral and endogenous retroviral detection and characterisation in crocodiles | Study relationships between viruses and diseases in crocodiles to improve control measures for these diseases.        | Jan 09- Oct 2011 | Dec-11                         | 3 years                                     | \$79,000 in kind total project                | Regular meetings   |
| BS    | Crocodile skin project   | Investigation of skin blemishes on in-salt raw crocodile skins to increase proportion of high quality crocodile skins | 2009             | Report in 2012 to stakeholders | 2 years                                     | \$96,000 in kind \$15,500 skins total project | Regular meetings   |