

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**WRITTEN QUESTION**

Mr Higgins to the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources:

Annual Report – Department of Environment and Natural Resources

1. In the performance achievements listed on p36, the first achievement is: “Resumed a consultative approach to water planning and water advisory committees.” Can you please explain how the department’s previous approach stopped being consultative?
2. In the performance achievements listed on p40 “Signed five-year funding agreements with the Arid Lands Environment Centre, Environment Centre Northern Territory and the Environmental Defenders Office.” What conditions, performance criteria or oversight are attached to these grants?
3. Would you please provide further information regarding the NT PFAS Interagency Working Group, its work done to date, and future work plans especially for PFAS findings not associated with the Department of Defence? Where will further PFAS testing be done by the Northern Territory Government?
4. We note the section in large coloured font mentioning 25% separation rate for the department. Is this a good result for the department?
5. The annual report states the department has 296.5 full-time equivalent staff. What was the equivalent number (that is in areas currently included in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources) on 30 June 2016?

Annual Report – Environment Protection Authority

1. The annual report states that “a number of other (non-Defence) sites in the Northern Territory have been identified as requiring screening-level investigation based on the type and amount of PFAS usage in the past”. Where are these sites and when will the tests occur?
2. Has work progressed on drafting the environmental regulations for hydraulic fracturing since the imposing a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing? If yes, please provide further details in this regard.