

Estimates Committee 2016 Questions Taken On Notice

(14/06/2016 to 23/06/2016)

Date: 16/06/2016 Output: Land Resource Management
Sub Output: Flora and Fauna
Subject: Impact of cane toads on goanna species

From: Mr Gerry McCarthy to Hon Gary Higgins
Land Resource Management

Question: **5-7**
Can you outline any changes to the status of the goanna species that have been observed in the Northern Territory over the past few years in relation to the invasion of cane toads?

Answer: There are 16 reptiles species listed as threatened in the Northern Territory including the marine turtle species. There are three goanna species listed as threatened or vulnerable in the NT. They are the floodplain monitor, the Mertens' water monitor and the Mitchell's water monitor. These species declined in the Top End when cane toads invaded us. They preyed on and were poisoned by the toads. This generally occurred from the early 1990s in the gulf region through to the 2000s around Darwin.

However, monitoring shows these goannas persist at lower numbers, and experience from Queensland shows their population partly recover over time. They are also secure on a number of islands with no cane toads.

Answered On: 16/06/2016