



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
12th Assembly

Petition

Registration No.	20
Title	Continue the Dhimurru Aboriginal Land Management Corporation Senior NT Parks and Wildlife Ranger position
Presented on	21 August 2013
Presented by	Ms Walker (Member for Nhulunbuy)
Referred to	Minister for Parks & Wildlife (Hon. Matt Conlan MLA)
Date referred	21 August 2013
Response due	27 November 2013
Response received	14 October 2013
Response presented	15 October 2013

Petition

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY:

WE THE UNDERSIGNED RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH

That the only NT Parks and Wildlife Ranger position on the Gove Peninsula is vital in supporting the interests of caring for country training and employment programs for Yolngu rangers, while also providing a critical public service with wildlife management including crocodile management.

YOUR PETITIONERS THEREFORE HUMBLY PRAY THAT

The Government reverses its decision to discontinue funding the senior NT Parks and Wildlife Ranger position with Dhimurru Aboriginal Land Management Corporation.

AND YOUR PETITIONERS, AS IN DUTY BOUND WILL EVER PRAY.

Response

NT Parks and Wildlife Ranger position at Nhulunbuy

Response to Petition No.20 read in the Legislative Assembly on 21 August 2013.

The new Government re-established the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory as a 'stand-alone' agency, with an 'on-park' service delivery.

The Commission's 'off-park' services were reviewed prior to the mini-Budget in December 2012.

To deliver savings the decision to cease funding to five off-park Indigenous Ranger Group Support positions, at the completion of current contract arrangements, was taken. This will amount to a saving of \$594 000 once the final contract expires in 2014.

Funding for two positions ceased on 30 June 2013. One of these was a full-time on site position supporting the Dhimurru Rangers at Nhulunbuy.

The intent of these Ranger Group Support positions was to help build the capacity of these groups to eventually operate effectively without 'full-time on-site' assistance.

A Parks and Wildlife Ranger has worked with the Dhimurru Rangers for more than 10 years. This has been a significant investment and it is now reasonable that the Ranger Group should operate more independently. However, the Commission did offer to continue the arrangement, providing all costs were met by Dhimurru.

Dhimurru accepted this offer and are funding the continued presence of a Commission Ranger until 30 December 2013.

In 2002, the Commission signed as a party to the Dhimurru Indigenous Protected Area agreement, a 21 year agreement. The Commission will continue to honour its responsibilities under this agreement however, this will be done without a 'full-time on-site' ranger presence.

The Government is committed to reducing debt and therefore cannot agree to reinstate funding to these positions.