

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Higgins to the Chief Minister:

Trade with Indonesia

1. Would you please advise if the former Ambassador to Indonesia Mr Bill Farmer has been appointed as a trade representative, consultant or similar role on behalf of the Northern Territory?
2. If the answer to question 1 is yes would you please provide the details of the appointment including the effective date?

ANSWER:

1. Yes.
2. The Northern Territory has put in place an interim arrangement for the next six months to undertake a strategic review of the Indonesian position while also providing NT Government representation in Indonesia during this time.

As of 1 December 2017, the Department of Trade, Business and Innovation engaged Mr Bill Farmer AO, previous Ambassador to Indonesia, to act as the Indonesian Special Advisor on behalf of the NT on a part-time basis and to undertake:

- a strategic review of the best option for ongoing NT representation in Indonesia including location, taking into account key strategic considerations, the NT's geographic location sectors/industries/history and the direction Indonesia is going - including their focus on Eastern Indonesia;
- make recommendations on the best method to staff an Indonesian representative presence, local vs non-local, location and type of office setup; and
- identify key focus areas for current and future attention, such as recommendations on the best method to staff an Indonesian representative presence, local vs non-local, location and type of office setup.

In addition, the NT Government also engaged Dr John Ackerman, founding Director of PT Mitra Asia Lestari, on a part-time basis. Dr Ackerman, who resides in Jakarta, and was the previous Counsellor for the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, and country manager for Meat and Livestock Australia, will provide on ground representation.