

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Vowles to the Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries:

Primary Industry

1. Please itemise cattle live exports by country of destination and by year since August 2012.

There was a total of 575,198 head of Northern Territory (NT) live cattle exported through the Port of Darwin during the period August 2012 to the end of July 2014.

Indonesia remains the NT's largest export market with approximately 418,966 head of NT cattle exported during this period.

Vietnam is now the NT's second largest live export market, taking nearly 63,905 head of NT cattle during the same period.

Other market destinations for NT cattle during this period were:

- Brunei (28,091 head);
- Philippines (37,925 head); and
- Malaysia (26,311 head).

	Brunei	Indonesia	Philippines	Malaysia	Vietnam	TOTAL
Aug-Dec 2012	2,158	60,132	16,280	2,120	2,801	83,491
Jan-Dec 2013	4,043	243,978	15,063	12,894	32,806	308,784
Jan-Jul 2014	21,890	114,856	6,582	11,297	28,298	182,923
TOTAL	28,091	418,966	37,925	26,311	63,905	575,198

2. Please itemise live buffalo exports by country of destination and by year since August 2012.

The Northern Territory has exported buffalo to Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and more recently Vietnam.

There has been a total of 3,138 head of live buffalo exported through the Port of Darwin during the period August 2012 to the end of May 2014.

Market destinations for buffalo during this period were:

- Brunei (917 head);
- Indonesia (201 head);
- Philippines (199 head); and

In January 2014, a new health protocol for feeder and slaughter buffalo to Vietnam was finalised and 1,821 head of buffalo have been exported to Vietnam as at 31 March 2014.

Live Buffalo Exports via Darwin Port					
	Brunei	Indonesia	Philippines	Vietnam	TOTAL
Aug-Dec 2012	517	-	-	-	517
2013	400	201	199	-	800
YTD 2014	-	-	-	1,821	1,821
TOTAL	917	201	199	1,821	3,138

3. What forecasts have been made about the size of the Territory buffalo herd in coming years and the level of possible buffalo exports?

This question was answered as part of the Estimates Committee Hearings 2014 – refer to Hansard.

4. Please breakdown the spend on plants and animals biosecurity by year since August 2012.

Refer to the Primary Industry Annual Research Achievements Report 2012-13 tabled during Estimates.

5. Please list the recipients of all grants to landowners and the purpose of the grants in 13/14.

This question was answered as part of the Estimates Committee Hearings 2014 – refer to the tabled answers to the Global Questions – Group 175, Question 13.

6. What is the total value of rents received under the Pastoral Lands Act for each of the past three years? What proportion of rent has been collected for each of the past three years? How many appeals have been lodged against valuation of pastoral lands for each of the past three years?

The total value of pastoral lease rent invoices issued for the periods, 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 was approximately \$3.6M.

The value of rent received for 2011-12 was approximately \$2.7M due to approximately \$0.8M being waived for privately operated pastoral leases impacted by the suspension of the live cattle trade with Indonesia. Approximately \$.1M remains outstanding due to some pastoral lessees being in arrears of their rental payment for 2011-12.

The value of rent received for 2012-13 was approximately \$3.4M. Approximately \$.2M remains outstanding due to some pastoral lessees being in arrears of their rental payment for 2012-13.

The value of rent received to date for 2013-14 is approximately \$3.1M, with \$.5M yet to be paid this financial year.

Objections against the declared Unimproved Capital Value (UCV) of pastoral leases are lodged under the provisions of the *Valuation of Land Act*. The Act is administered by the Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment.

Pastoral leases are valued every three years for rental purpose. The most recent valuation was carried out in 2012 by the Australian Valuation Office on behalf of the NT Valuation Office. Five objections to the 2012 valuations were lodged with the NT Valuation Office.

7. How many applications have been received to use lands for a non-pastoral purpose under Part 7 of the Pastoral Lands Act? Which local government areas were the applications from? What area of land is covered by applications for change of use? How

many applications have been declined? What were the changed purposes which have been sought?

Three applications for non-pastoral use have been received, all from existing permit holders.

One property is located in the Barkly Pastoral District (Barkly Shire), one in the Southern Alice Springs Pastoral District (McDonald Shire) and one in the Victoria River Pastoral District (Victoria/Daly Shire).

Permits for tourism operations to support the pastoral enterprise are not restricted to defined areas of the lease as they often involve tours or access across the property.

All three applications are for small-scale tourism activities which operate to support the existing pastoral enterprise. The pastoral enterprise remains the primary purpose for use of the land, as per the Pastoral Land Act.

No applications have been declined.

8. Please itemise the spend on scientific research which supports industry development, productivity and profitability by year since August 2012.

Refer to the Primary Industry Annual Research Achievements Report 2012-13 tabled during Estimates.

9. Please list the value of Farm Finance Concessional Loans Scheme by local government area for each of the past three years.

The Australian Government Farm Finance: Concessional Loans Scheme was introduced in the 2013-14 financial year.

The NT application period opened on 24 February 2014 and closed on 30 April 2014.

For the period 24 February 2014 to 31 March 2014 there were 9 applications approved.

Pastoral:

- 4 approvals are from the Sturt Plateau area for a total of \$3.566 million;
- 1 approval from Katherine Area for a total of \$1 million;
- 1 from VRD area for \$1 million;
- 1 from Alice Springs area for \$0.909 million; and
- 1 from Mataranka area for \$0.314 million.

Horticulture:

- 1 from the Katherine area for \$0.295 million.

10. Please list the externally funded projects and agreements which ceased in 2013/14.

Program/Project	Date ceased
RIRDC PRJ-008953 IPP Pilots NT	April 2014
MLA BEST PRACTICE TOP END	July 2013
MLA Vietnam Supply Chain Assistance W.LEC	May 2014
RIRDC NAP 03.24 GENETIC IMPROVE BUFFALO	March 2013
MLA LIVEWEIGHT GAIN	July 2013
UQ MLA Beef Fertility	March 2014

RIRDC EPI AUST WATER BUFF	June 2014
UQ Straw Cow	June 2014
CSIRO B.BSC.0107 Northern Beef Scoping Study	September 2013
CSIRO 2012104124 Vitamin D (Hy-D) Supplementation	April 2014
RIRDC PRJ-008790 Enhancing productivity Aust'n Water Buffalo	June 2014
DAFF Sterile Insect Technique Fruit Fly	June 2014
AFFA CULIODES SPP Vri	Oct 2013
AFFA AB02_03_18 BEF Viraemia	Oct 2013
AFFA Blu Semen	Oct 2013
AFFA 648 AIELISA	Oct 2013
RIRDC Chlamydia	Oct 2013
CRC NPB60097 Scholarship	2013
CRC40139 Pathogen Eradication Strategies	2013

11. What funding is allocated to the development of fruit industries?

Total NT Government allocation to fruit RD&E is \$2,359,410, of which \$1,273,890 is spent on the mango program, and \$1,085,520 is on commodities such as Rambutan, passionfruit, and dates.

12. What funding has been allocated to the eradication of Banana Freckle and what proportion is funded by the Commonwealth?

This question was answered as part of the Estimates Committee Hearings 2014 – refer to Hansard.

13. How many bananas have been destroyed since the declaration of restricted and control areas for banana freckle?

At 10 June 2014, 18,277 banana plants had been removed from 464 properties within restricted areas.

Banana plants are not eradicated within the control areas.

14. Please list by date when each change to restricted and control areas for banana freckle were gazetted, the area of land and number of properties covered by each gazettal notice.

Refer to the answer provided to the Estimates Committee, published on the Legislative Assembly website (8.2 - Answer to Questions 200 - WQ.14).

15. How many properties have been visited by the Banana Freckle Eradication Program?

This question was answered as part of the Estimates Committee Hearings 2014 – refer to Hansard.

16. Please list all reviews being undertaken by the Department and the date of expected finalisation.

A review of the commercial Barramundi Fishery is currently being undertaken with a view to identifying efficiencies and business improvements that may be available to improve the long

term viability of the fishery. The Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries will look to implement viable recommendations coming from that review during 2014.

A review of the Northern Territory Government's aquaculture program was recently undertaken. The review reported on key actions and strategies needed to encourage investment in aquaculture in northern Australia and the level of government support needed to encourage industry growth. It also covered the recommendations on the best use of the Darwin Aquaculture Centre.
