

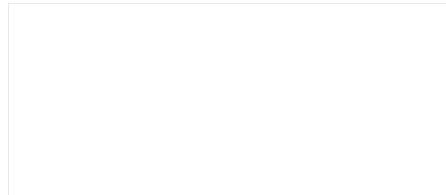
**Question No :** 303

**Question :** Commercial Crocodile-Catching Firm

**Question Date :** 12/10/93

**Member :** Mr BAILEY

**To :** MINISTER for CONSERVATION



1. What will be the cost to the Northern Territory government for the services of the commercial crocodile-catching firm operating within Darwin Harbour from 13 September 1993.
2. How will these costs be met.
3. Will any function or service currently provided cease in order to fund the arrangement.
4. Will there be any reductions in staff arising from the arrangement.
5. When and where will the staff released from crocodile-catching operations be redeployed.

**ANSWER**

1. The cost to the NT government will be \$111 994.
2. The cost for the period contract to carry out the Crocodile Contract Program within the Darwin Harbour will be met from within existing budget appropriation to the Conservation Commission.
3. No function or service currently provided will cease in order to fund the arrangement. Indeed, the change will free staff to perform other important work, especially in regard to the control of native pests on horticultural crops.
4. There will be no reductions in staff arising from the arrangement. Staff time will be reallocated to meet other pressing needs.
5. Crocodile-catching work was previously performed by Wildlife rangers. A reduced operational commitment to the Darwin Harbour Management Area will enable Wildlife Operations to increase activities in other areas, for example, beyond Darwin Harbour to provide advice and assistance on problem crocodiles to pastoralists, landholders, communities and tourism ventures.

The unit shall commit more time and resources to extension work with landholders to monitor, advise and assist in minimising pest damage to horticultural crops. Programs to control feral pigs on parks and reserves will also be enhanced.

Staff are also assisting in surveys of marine environments associated with the development of the Beagle Gulf Marine Park.