

Estimates Committee 2005 Questions Taken On Notice

(23/06/2005 to 01/10/2005)

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Subject: Minerals and Energy - Geological Survey

From: Ms Fay MILLER to Honourable Kon VATSKALIS
Minister for Mines and Energy

8-1

Question: Please provide details of the Geological Survey Division's work program on gathering data and producing geological data sets for the uranium sector and the costs involved.

Answer:

Answered On: 04/08/2005

Answer: The total expenditure of NT Geological Survey (NTGS) in the past five years on projects that have been specifically related to uranium is \$35 000 in operational funding, and approximately \$75 000 in personnel funding, as outlined below.

- An airborne gravity survey was flown over western Arnhem Land in September 2003, in collaboration with Geoscience Australia and Cameco Australia. This data could be used for exploration for a large number of commodities, but the area in question is particularly prospective for uranium. The contribution of NTGS to this project was \$20 000 in operational funds.
- In 2000-01, NTGS provided \$15 000 as a grant to Queens University in Canada, in order for it to conduct specialist research on the origin of uranium mineralisation at the Nabarlek deposit.
- During 2002 and 2003, one NTGS geologist worked part-time on completing a review of uranium mineralisation in the Northern Territory. This project took approximately one year (full-time equivalent) to complete. The project had no operational funding, but personnel and on-costs were around \$75 000.
- In addition, from time to time NTGS staff have fielded questions and provided advice to industry clients on general issues relating to regional prospectivity for uranium.