

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

## WRITTEN QUESTION

Ms J Carney

to Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

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### Emergency Response - Kings Canyon

1. What strategies were implemented in 2004-05 to improve the response to trauma and bushfire in the Kings Canyon region?

### ANSWER

- The Kings Canyon Emergency Response Post was established by the Northern Territory Emergency Service (NTES) to provide an immediate coordinated response to road accidents, vertical rescue, and search and rescue incidents in Watarrka National Park and on the Luritja and Mereenie Loop approach roads. The Post has a permanent NTES Officer to provide training to local NTES Units, as well as a coordination centre for major fire and rescue operations, and will in the near future, provide limited Motor Vehicle Registry services.
- The initiative was announced by the Chief Minister at Alice Springs on 12 April 2005 and the Emergency Response Post, situated at the Old Ranger Station at Watarrka National Park, became fully operational on 16 May 2005.
- Funding was provided in 2004-05 for provision of personnel, a 4WD vehicle, fit-out and equipment for the Post, and a lease payment.
- In the first two weeks of operation, the Emergency Response Post and Watarrka Volunteer Unit responded to 9 incidents in the immediate Park area.