



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 95

WRITTEN QUESTION

K McNamara to the Minister for Lands, Planning and the Environment,
Hon Josh Burgoyne MLA:

Estimates Questions that were missed due to time restrictions

- 1. How much funding has been specifically allocated for partnerships with Traditional Owners on environmental management?**

Office of Climate Change did not specifically fund Traditional Owners, but did provide funding to the Indigenous Carbon Industry Network (ICIN) as per below:

- \$100 000 (excluding GST) to establish policy development capacity on greenhouse gas emissions;
- \$40 000 contribution to support development of an ICIN Australian Carbon Credit Unit marketing and branding strategy (in partnership with Queensland Government); and
- \$15 000 (excluding GST) as sponsorship for the Savanna Fire Forum.

- 2. What resources are provided to support Indigenous Protected Areas and traditional fire management programs?**

See response to Question 1 above.

- 3. What economic modelling has been done on the long-term costs of environmental degradation versus investment in protection and restoration?**

Nil.

- 4. If there has been economic modelling, can you please provide it?**

Not applicable.

5. Given concerns about mining impacts on groundwater, what specific allocation is made for monitoring water quality around mining sites?

- \$80 000 is allocated per annum to conduct a range of environmental monitoring, including water monitoring at the Ranger Uranium Mine consistent with the obligations of the Northern Territory (NT) under arrangements with the Australian Government for the regulation of uranium in the NT.
- All other water quality monitoring around secured mine sites is undertaken by mining operators in accordance with the conditions of the environmental (mining) license.
- Water quality monitoring around legacy mine sites is the responsibility of the Department of Mining and Energy (DME) and queries on specific programs should be directed to DME.

6. How many mining operations are located in or near critical water catchment areas (please list the specific sites)?

- “Critical water catchment areas” are not defined in the *Water Act 1992* (the Act) or *Water Regulations 1992*. The Department does not currently maintain a list of critical water catchment areas.
- Areas where there is high competition for water resources are subject to water allocation plans under the Act. This is outlined on the map of [Water allocation plans | NT.GOV.AU](#).
- Mining activities generally occur outside of these areas.
- Where there are mining activities within a water allocation plan area the plan will allocate a proportion of the available water to the beneficial use of ‘mining activity’.
- Mining activities are subject to licensing requirements as with other commercial users of water.
- There are currently 38 water extraction licences for mining across the NT. The licences can be viewed publicly through the [Water Licensing Portal Simplified](#) by sorting by beneficial use ‘mining activity’.

7. What funding is allocated to assess cumulative impacts of multiple mining operations on water resources?

- No specific funding is allocated.
- The Mining Division considers the cumulative impacts of mining activities during the environmental (mining) licensing process. This consideration is generally limited to the cumulative impacts of the specific project rather than the cumulative impacts of multiple projects.