

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**WRITTEN QUESTION**

Mr Wood

to Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries

Impact of large scale agriculture on key recreational fishing species in the Daly River

1. Has the government undertaken any environmental research into the potential impacts of the proposed expansion of large scale agriculture on key recreational fishing species in the Daly River.

ANSWER

Research into key indicator species and flow rates has been undertaken by the Northern Territory Government. This research has not focussed on key recreational fishing species. The outcomes and recommendations of this work is being taken into account by the Northern Territory Government during consideration of annual water extraction rates.

The aim of the five projects undertaken as part of the National River Health Environment Flow initiative was to provide recommendations on the environment flows consistent with maintaining the biota and wider ecosystem values of the Daly River. This research recognised the needs key indicator species and that in addressing the most vulnerable species, other species would be afforded protection. The report also addresses the issues of the incidence of fish kills.

The environmental flow requirements identify the need to maintain fish passageways and critical streamflows that cue various biotic responses.

(see also answer to Question 42)