

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 821

asked on Wednesday, 25 May 2011

MR POWELL ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (MS JONES)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise what subsequent management and/or monitoring exercises have been undertaken in Mackay/Whitsundays waterways as a result of DERM's 2009-10 crocodile survey?

ANSWER:

The 2009/2010 crocodile survey of the Mackay and Whitsunday area included representative samples of four waterways; the Proserpine River, Murray Creek, the Pioneer River and Rocky Dam Creek. The survey revealed little change in the crocodile population since the 2007 survey, with data showing the presence of approximately one crocodile every two kilometres.

Ensuring public safety through effective crocodile management remains a priority for the Department of Environment and Resource Management. All crocodile sightings received by the department are assessed and where the crocodile is identified as posing a threat to human safety, it is targeted for removal from the wild.

The management of crocodiles in urban areas is a priority as the potential for crocodile / human interaction and conflict is heightened wherever communities and crocodiles co-exist. The department is currently working with the Mackay Regional Council to develop a co-operative and locally-responsive approach to crocodile management in the Mackay area.