

It is also important to remember that all hunters are required to obtain a permit for hunting magpie geese, whether hunting in hunting reserves or on private property. Permits will be available well before the commencement of the season, and the location of where such permits can be acquired will be advertised soon.

The hunting of water fowl is part of the Territory lifestyle. It is our responsibility to manage it and ensure that water fowl numbers are sustainable. I wish everyone well in the water fowl season.

Mr BALDWIN (Daly): Madam Speaker, I thank the minister for that. It is good news for hunters of geese in the Top End of the Northern Territory, at least.

When I was Minister for Parks and Wildlife, I extended the season, on the advice of Parks and Wildlife, to allow extended hunting, so it is not a new thing, but I welcome it again this year.

The issue, though, is the permits. You finished on the permits, but you did not say where you could get them. Last year, when you made the same announcement, it was all about some administrative error that would not allow permits to be obtained from sports shops around Darwin, Palmerston and the rural area. That caused great concern in the community for hunters. It made it difficult for Parks and Wildlife officers who had to then distribute these permits.

You have had a year to fix it, and you have not yet told us that we will be able to go to sports shops to get our permits, as we used to in the past. It is a very convenient way of making sure the permits are available to the community. If you would like to elaborate on that and assure Territorians that things are like they were in the past, easy access to permits through sports shops, that would be very good news.

You were the minister who went to Katherine and promised them their drain money, and that they would fix it. It seems to me, minister, to end with a quote for you, that at the moment what you are saying is, Darwin is getting the water fowl; Katherine is getting the foul water.

Members interjecting.

Dr BURNS (Parks and Wildlife): Madam Speaker, my report was about water fowl and magpie geese. I would welcome a question on the Katherine issue during Question Time today. In terms, of ...

Mr Baldwin: Why? Answer it now.

Dr BURNS: No, no. You have your time this afternoon. I could answer it, but in the minute I have left, I want to talk about the relevant issue you have raised. I want to see easier availability of licences to hunters, and I will undertake the report back to the House on that.

Members interjecting.

Reports noted pursuant to Sessional Order.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Pass all stages

Mr HENDERSON (Leader of Government Business): Madam Speaker, I move that so much of standing orders be suspended as would prevent the Appropriation Bill 2004-05 (Serial 234) passing through all stages at this sittings.

Motion agreed to.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Mr HENDERSON (Leader of Government Business): Madam Speaker, I move that the Assembly at its rising adjourn until 1 pm on Friday 25 June 2004, or such other time as notified by the Speaker, with one hour's notice being given to government and opposition whips and members by the Speaker or such other time and/or date as may be advised by the Speaker pursuant to Sessional Order.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION

Routine of Business

Mr HENDERSON (Leader of Government Business): Madam Speaker, I move that the routine of business for Friday, 25 June 2004, be as follows: prayers, petitions, notices, government business pursuant to resolution of the Assembly dated 18 May 2004, and adjournment.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION

Postponement of Business

Mr HENDERSON (Leader of Government Business): Madam Speaker, I move that intervening government business be postponed until after consideration of Government Business Notice No 3 relating to the Teacher Registration (Northern Territory) Bill 2004 (Serial 239) and Orders of the Day No 1 relating to the Appropriation Bill 2004-05 (Serial 234) in that order.

Motion agreed to.