

Remarks by Environment Minister

Hon Dwayne Seymour

At the Government House Reception

for attendees at the Horizon Workshop on invasive species

22 May 2018

Salutations,

Good evening and a very warm Cayman Islands welcome to everyone here tonight, especially our visitors from overseas.

From the United Kingdom, we have the organisers and team leaders of the Horizon Workshop. These include officials from the National Environmental Research Council's Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, but also the Non-native Species Secretariat.

Joining us from closer to home, are representatives from Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, and the Turks and Caicos Islands, our neighbours and fellow members of the Overseas Territories family.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for coming together with us to look outward and ahead on the topic of invasive species, something that is of concern to countries across the world. I am also particularly glad to see inter-departmental and cross-ministry collaboration within the Cayman Islands Government on this important subject.

From green iguanas to lionfish, everyone here tonight knows that invasive species pose a serious problem for the local environment. We are also certain that it is critical to prevent the rise of another invasive species that would repeat the green iguana disaster that this region is now dealing with.

It is my hope that, with the support of my fellow Cabinet members, the Cayman Islands Government will provide the level of fiscal support that is necessary to bring the green iguanas under control.

If this happens, by the next time any of you visit Grand Cayman you should see far fewer of these lizards which currently abound in our beautiful landscape.

With this in mind I am particularly looking forward to seeing what fruit your current discussions will bear. I am sure it will be of use to most of us here tonight.

I would like to end by encouraging the international delegates to make the most of their time with us on this current trip. In addition to sun, sand and sea, the Cayman Islands are known for the friendliness of our people, the deliciousness of our food, and the excellence of our cultural institutions.

Find the time to sample any of these things and I promise you will take away with you an experience that is both memorable and enjoyable when you leave our shores.

Thank you for your attention and have a good night.