

Committee Secretary Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

June 23 2014

RE: CFI AMENDMENT BILL SUBMISSION

Dear Sir / Madam,

Our family own and operate "Koolburra Station" in Cape York Peninsula. In 2013 we committed to changing our methodology on fire management from traditional late dry season burns to cooler early dry season burns. We were very successful in doing this in 2013 and managed to keep all late dry season burns out of the property and hence prevented approximately 10,500 tonnes of CO₂ being released to the atmosphere.

The abatement from 2013 has been verified by the third party auditor and submitted to the Clean Energy regulator for the credits to be issued. However due to a time restraint rule that only allows submission within a 3 month period from the project completion date (31-12-13) we have been unable to gain access to the credits and hence payment for the work carried out. The time frame is inadequate due to delays in Northern Australia Fire Information Service (SAVBAT) mapping to be verified along with the time frame for the auditor's reports.

The early savannah burning methodology as part of the Carbon Farming Initiative will allow graziers along with Indigenous land owners one of the best opportunities in many years to be able to contribute to the environment and derive a much needed secondary income from running cattle. The more landowners that participate the more successful the project will be as wild fire does not stop at boundary fences and to control it takes early preparation and later in the year team effort.

As the first property to sign up to the early savannah burning project in Cape York I am fielding many phone calls from neighbouring properties asking me questions as they consider joining. The key question that leads to scepticism is when they ask me "*have you received any payment yet*", and I answer NO!

The lack of funds is also making it increasingly difficult to prepare and implement an early dry season burn in 2014. Our window closes on the 31st July to put early burns in and with the compounded effect of historically low cattle prices I have had to suspend putting on a staff member to help me implement the project. I fear this will see us in a position where a lack of preparation and human resources will result in a late dry season wild fire.

I ask the Senate Standing Committee to Amend the Bill to extend the time for submissions under this methodology from 3 months to 12.

As a landowner who has participated in this project I am available to discuss any further questions with members of the committee.

Yours Sincerely,

Stuart Box