

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 118
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Director of National Parks (DNP)
Topic: Court cases - hunting
Hansard Page: 60
Question Date: 23 February 2015
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Canavan asked:

Senator CANAVAN: I think I saw that about four of the five that have been convicted were for hunting in Kakadu National Park—is that right?

Ms Barnes: Yes.

Senator CANAVAN: What were those people hunting?

Ms Barnes: I can get back to you with the details, but often it is pigs or—

Senator CANAVAN: Pigs?

Ms Barnes: Yes.

Senator CANAVAN: How do you control pigs in your national parks?

Ms Barnes: Through pest plans and looking at where the pigs are doing the most damage, and then putting in place programs either with our staff or with contractors through the local Indigenous communities.

Senator CANAVAN: Do you shoot the pigs?

Ms Barnes: We do.

Senator CANAVAN: And you say you engage contractors to do that?

Ms Barnes: We do some ourselves and sometimes we might engage Indigenous groups to help us, but I can get you details if you like?

Answer:

The four persons convicted for offences in Kakadu National Park that are referred to in the Director of National Parks in 2013-14 annual report were engaged in illegal pig hunting activities in the park.

For feral pig control at Kakadu National Park, aerial shooting is the most effective broad scale method. Ground shooting and traps can be effective in localised situations such as around a mimosa plot. Trapping is very labour intensive and Kakadu is too large an area for this to be effective – additionally pigs are often very wary and don't enter these structures.

Kakadu National Parks has also used contractors to undertake pig control.