

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment and Energy portfolio**

**Question No:** 298  
**Hearing:** Additional Estimates  
**Outcome:** Agency  
**Program:** Director of National Parks  
**Topic:** Native title claim  
**Hansard Page:** -  
**Question Date:** 14 March 2017  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Siewert asked:**

In the estimates hearing, Ms Barnes stated 'That said, it also needs to be brought to your attention that where the farm is located is in a section of Kakadu National Park where the native title claim is not finalised or clear.' As I understand it, there is no native title claim at present. Can you please explain what was meant by your comment?

**Answer:**

Referring to my Letter of Correction signed 24 March 2017, the Buffalo Farm is located in an area of Kakadu National Park that is Aboriginal land under the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976.

There is however an ongoing dispute in and around the Buffalo Farm area regarding the traditional owner status of Aboriginal people living within and associated with the area and to my knowledge there is not a single, consolidated view amongst Traditional Owners on the future of the Buffalo Farm. The Northern Land Council will need to conduct consultation with Traditional Owners and appropriate Aboriginals if there are to be any changes to the current arrangements.