

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

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 315
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Program: Director of National Parks
Topic: Carbon abatement projects
Hansard Page: -
Question Date: 14 March 2017
Question Type: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

We understand that several Indigenous organisations in Kakadu National Park have proposed carbon abatement projects based on traditional fire management practices, but that Parks has persistently failed to adequately support these efforts. Can you please provide details of proposals put to Parks in recent years and respond to suggestions that Parks is not adequately responding to these positive environmental and socioeconomic initiatives?

Answer:

The Kakadu National Park Management Plan provides that all carbon savanna burning projects carried out by external proponents must be approved by the Board of Management. The Board considered proposals in May 2016. While the Board supported the development of carbon abatement projects in principle it asked for additional work to be undertaken, particularly on governance arrangements. The Board subsequently gave approval for Parks Australia to register savanna burning projects with the Clean Energy Regulator.

In late 2016 Parks Australia registered two Carbon Projects within the park - one on Jawoyn country (in South Kakadu) and one on Mirarr land (in North Kakadu). These projects will support traditional fire management practices alongside contemporary scientific understanding of climate change and the impacts of burning on threatened species and habitat. The revenue generated will be used to support Indigenous employment and fire management infrastructure. Parks Australia will continue to work with Traditional Owners in other areas of the Park to expand the current project area or register new projects to generate further revenue and employment for Bininj/Mungguy.