

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

Question No: 316
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Program: Director of National Parks
Topic: Joint management
Hansard Page: -
Question Date: 14 March 2017
Question Type: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

A guiding principal of the Kakadu National Park Plan of Management is for Bininj/Mungguy and Balanda to keep joint management strong by working together, communicating effectively and sharing decision-making. Are you aware of examples where such joint management has been practiced?

Answer:

In May 2016, Kakadu National Park Board members, Bininj/Mungguy and Balanda, participated in a three day workshop to review and if appropriate improve governance arrangements and decision making around park management.

The workshop culminated in 21 recommendations to improve the way the Board conducted business with an emphasis on maximising the opportunity for Bininj/Mungguy members to engage in decision making processes. Formal Bininj/Mungguy days now precede Board meetings to enable Bininj/Mungguy members to discuss and better understand issues and drive management outcomes through the Board.

Parks Australia staff work closely through the Northern Land Council appointed consultation officer to ensure park operations and decisions, commensurate with the Board of Management, are underpinned by comprehensive consultation with and agreement and support from relevant Traditional Owners.

In February/March 2017 all Kakadu staff participated in a cross cultural awareness course that was designed to give all Park staff a better understanding and idea of the working relationships and how to improve these between Balanda and Bininj/Mungguy. Parks Australia staff are now working with the Northern Land Council and Traditional Owners to produce a Cultural Awareness Program designed to give all staff, contractors, scientists and other relevant people working on park protocols and rules around engaging with Bininj/Mungguy and working on country.

The Kakadu National Park management plan and operation plan provides opportunities for Bininj/Mungguy to participate in Park work including fire management, weed and feral animal management and administration.

Most recently staff in the park worked through the Board of Management to develop opportunities for deriving commercial value from feral animals within the Park and revising current recruitment policies and guidelines to maximise opportunities for Bininj/Mungguy to work in the Park and secure promotions commensurate with their skills, traditional knowledge and experience.