

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

Question No: 321
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Agency
Program: Director of National Parks
Topic: Application by Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation
Hansard Page: -
Question Date: 14 March 2017
Question Type: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

Section 4.2.6 (d) Making Decisions and Working Together cites “providing opportunities to increase outsourcing of park maintenance activities and aspects of park management such as fire management activities to Aboriginal corporations or enterprises”. What was the Park Management response to the application by Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation in May 2016 and then again in November 2016 to support the registering of a carbon emissions abatement project designed to engage Indigenous Ranger groups resources and knowledge in the management of fire within the Park?

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 the proposal Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation in May 2016 but declined to give its approval at that time. The Board subsequently gave approval for Parks Australia to register savanna burning projects with the Clean Energy Regulator. With the agreement of the Board, Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation, Parks Australia registered a savanna burning project with the Clean Energy Regulator in early 2017.

Parks Australia and Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation will negotiate a legal agreement in relation to the project activities and this agreement will allow for administrative and operational responsibility for the project to be transferred to Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation in the future.