



Australian Government
Director of National Parks

Senator Linda Reynolds CSC
Chair
Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Reynolds

On 22 May 2017 Sally Barnes appeared as a witness before the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee Estimates Hearing.

During the hearing the following exchange with Senator Siewert occurred relation to the management of a buffalo farm

Senator SIEWERT: *The arrangements.*

Ms Barnes: *The arrangements are that Mr Lindner is continuing to manage the buffalo farm. He is providing meat—both buffalo meat and, we understand, magpie geese meat—to traditional owners. The NLC is going to be working through land claims in that area, and once they have finished those land claims they will be happy to talk to traditional owners about what they would like to happen next with that particular part of the park.*

Senator SIEWERT: *What is your understanding of the time frame? I take on board what you said about talking directly to the NLC, but what is your understanding about that time frame?*

Ms Barnes: *I could not answer on their behalf, nor could I answer on their behalf about how long it might take to work through the land claim. That is very much an NLC with traditional owner process.*

Ms Barnes wishes to correct this answer. The Northern Land Council (NLC) will be working through consultations with traditional owners about what they would like to happen next with that particular part of the park – and not through land claims as stated. The Director of National Parks is still not able to answer on behalf of the NLC how long it may take to work through the consultation process. The remainder of the answer to the question, given at the Hearing, is correct.

During the hearing Senator Urquhart said in relation to the review of Commonwealth marine reserves

"I know that in 2015 the Abbott-Turnbull government sponsored a review into the removal of about 127,000 square kilometres from the reserve, which is almost the size of my home state of Tasmania. At that time, I understand that there was no

justification given, but there has been a review. I have not seen a response. Has there been a formal response to that review given that it was a couple of years ago?"

In response Ms Barnes said

".....Australia's marine reserve network is the third largest in the world, behind the United States and France."

Ms Barnes wishes to correct this answer. Australia's marine reserve network is the second largest in the world, behind the United States. The remainder of the answer to the question, given at the Hearing, is correct.

Ms Barnes apologises for the errors in her answers and trusts this further information will be of assistance to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Dr Judy West
A/g Director of National Parks

14 June 2017