

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

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 237
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Director of National Parks
Topic: Letter to Northern Land Council
Hansard Page:
Question Date: 02 June 2017
Question Type: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

1. Can the Director confirm that the 'approval' contained in the letter sent on 23/12/1999 from the Director of National Parks to the CEO of the Northern Land Council (appended to QoN 297 Management of Buffalo Farm) was never taken up?
2. What is the meaning of the final sentence of that letter: "I would be interested in receiving your comments on these matters and holding discussions with the NLC with a view to formalising local arrangements for the management of the farm?"
3. Do you interpret this sentence to suggest that there is further discussion and paperwork to be undertaken before any formal arrangement could be said to be in place?

Answer:

1. The letter of 23 December 2009 from Mr Peter Wellings, Assistant Secretary, Parks Australia North, on behalf of the Director of National Parks and Wildlife to the Chairman of the Northern Land Council confirms that the Northern Land Council (or such other body or person as may be nominated by the Council) may continue to operate the buffalo farm.
2. The reference to "I would be interested in receiving your comments on these matters and holding discussions with the NLC with a view to formalising local arrangements for the management of the farm?" may have been made in reference to the nomination by the NLC of the persons taking on operational management responsibility of the farm on behalf of the NLC.
3. There are no further records of any discussions or correspondence from the NLC in relation to formalising local operational arrangements.