

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

Question No: 309
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 2
Program: International Climate Change and Energy Innovation Division (ICCEID)
Topic: International Savanna Fire Management Initiative
Hansard Page: n/a
Question Date: 31 October 2016
Question Type: Written

Senator Siewert, Rachel asked:

Is the Government advancing the International Savanna Fire Management Initiative (ISFMI)?

- a) If so, where is this up to?
- b) If not, why not?

Answer:

- From 2013 to 2015, the Australian Government provided \$2.25 million in aid funding to support the International Savanna Fire Management Initiative (ISFMI).
 - ISFMI assessed the feasibility of using indigenous Australian savanna fire management to establish similar approaches for emission reductions in developing countries.
 - The Australian Government funded the United Nations University (UNU) to manage the initiative and the Department of the Environment and Energy managed the project.
 - This funding was used to design, research and identify potential pilot sites for applying indigenous Australian savanna fire management overseas.
 - The initiative was completed and the final report was released during the Paris United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP21) in December 2015.
 - As part of the Initiative the Australian Government supported three members of the Kimberley Land Council (KLC) to attend COP 21 in order to present their on-ground experience in undertaking savanna fire management emission reduction projects.

A) The Final Report concluded that there was a promising indication for the feasibility of savanna fire management methods to be adopted in other countries.

B) ANU and KLC are currently in discussion with Australian Government agencies about the potential for additional Australian Government support for the implementation of savanna fire management pilot projects.