

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources

#### **Resources for land owners**

Please advise how landowners who live on their traditional clan estates can be consulted and resourced about traditional methods of land conservation, including seasonal burning off – rather than a helicopter flying overhead?

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The annual planning cycle for Savanna Burning begins with a bush meeting of all parties late in the wet season (April) including the nine Ranger groups in Arnhem Land, other Aboriginal groups, National Parks and neighbouring pastoralists. The Ranger groups draft burn plans for the following dry season.

A whole month is spent consulting with relevant Traditional Owners on each homeland. Traditional Owners identify where and who can do the burning. Prohibited areas such as sacred sites are identified at this time. The Traditional Owners are involved with roadside burning around community, and sit in the front of helicopters when aerial burning is done to ensure the right places are burnt. A permit from Bushfires NT is required to conduct aerial burning. A condition of that permit is that all landowners and neighbours are notified.

Further, high level consultation is through the Arnhem Regional Bushfire Committee. The membership of the Committee consists of experienced Arnhem Region fire managers. The Regional Committee helps to identify the regional scale risks.