



The Secretariat  
Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee  
Parliament of Australia

Thursday, May 21, 2020

**RE: Inquiry into the EPBC Act Amendment (Climate Trigger) Bill 2020**

To the Secretariat,

The Indigenous Carbon Industry Network (ICIN) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission in response to the EPBC Act Amendment (Climate Trigger) Bill. ICIN is a network of 34 Indigenous organisations which support 29 Indigenous-owned savanna carbon farming projects over 17.9 million hectares across north Australia. The Indigenous carbon industry has abated over 5.23 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions since 2013 from employing Indigenous ranger groups to undertake early dry season burning to prevent hot savanna wildfires.

These projects enable Indigenous organisations to generate revenue from the sale of Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) to the total value of around \$80 million since 2013. This revenue is invested into local communities as directed by Traditional Owners, including into programs supporting land management, protection of sacred sites, community education, intergenerational exchange of traditional knowledge, cultural exchanges, training and research.

ICIN is supportive of legislative changes which reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions footprint towards achieving a target of net-zero emissions by 2050.

At the 2020 North Australia Savanna Fire Forum hosted by ICIN, the Bureau of Meteorology and Darwin Centre for Bushfire Research showed savanna carbon farming projects are directly impacted by climate change, as more extreme and more frequent hot days, heat waves and drought periods contribute to more extreme and worsening fire conditions. Furthermore, members are concerned that remote Indigenous communities are particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts, due to their remoteness, high rates of social and economic disadvantage and lack of infrastructure.

Therefore, ICIN fully supports the intent of the EPBC Act (Climate Trigger) Bill.

To make its application more practicable we recommend that the term "emissions-intensive action" be further defined to quantify a minimum climate footprint under each type of activity (mining, drilling or land clearing) which would trigger the EPBC Act.

We also note that there are existing laws to protect native vegetation and to govern mining and petroleum activities in each jurisdiction which should be reviewed by this Committee in order to ensure that this Bill provides triggers which are truly emissions-intensive.



Kind regards,

Anna Boustead  
Coordinator  
e. [icin@warddeken.org.au](mailto:icin@warddeken.org.au)  
p.  
c/- Warddeken Land Management  
564 Vanderlin Drive  
Berrimah NT 0814