



Australian Government

Department of Families, Housing,  
Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

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**Supplementary Information for the House of Representatives Standing  
Committee on Climate Change, Water, Environment and the Arts  
Inquiry into climate change and environmental impacts on coastal communities**

The Department of the Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) provides the following information in response to the Committee's request for further information at their public hearing on 19 March 2009.

**Question No 1.**

**The Department undertook to provide a copy of the National Emergency Management Strategy for Remote Indigenous Communities – *Keeping Our Mob Safe*. (Hansard p.7)**

A copy has been provided to the Committee. It can also be accessed via the Attorney-General's Department [website](#).

**Question No 2.**

**The Department undertook to provide further information on the Indigenous rangers program. (Hansard p.8)**

The Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) has responsibility for *Caring for our Country* initiatives. One initiative is the employment of Indigenous rangers under the *Working on Country* program. Further information on the *Working on Country* program is available on the Australian Government Indigenous Portal [website](#).

The 2008-09 Budget included \$90 million to facilitate the employment of 300 additional rangers to protect and manage the environment across Australia. In January 2009, Minister Garrett announced a further \$31.1 million over five years for eight *Working on Country* projects which are expected to provide ongoing jobs and training for over 80 Indigenous rangers from South Australia, Western Australia, Queensland and New South Wales.

In March 2009, the Australian Government announced that more than \$9 million from the *Working on Country* program and \$6.5 million from the Aboriginal Benefit Account would be provided over two years to support 22 Indigenous ranger groups working on land and sea management activities in the Northern Territory.

In the 2009-10 Budget, the Indigenous employment reform measures include funding for an additional 60 land and sea management positions in remote communities to be created as part of the new Indigenous remote workforce strategy.

**Question No 3.**

**Chair:** *I will leave it to you to take on notice my desire to yet again try to seek advice from the Northern Land Council about issues that are of concern to their community. If there is any assistance the department can provide that would be greatly appreciated. (Hansard p.10)*

The Northern Land Council (NLC) was contacted and was advised that the Committee would like to receive a submission from them. The advice received from the Northern Land Council, at the end of April, was that they were not in a position to submit on this matter at this time.