

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

**Question No:** 180  
**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Agency  
**Programme:** Director of National Parks  
**Topic:** Kakadu National Park Fire - Helicopter availability  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 27 October 2015  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Peris asked:**

1. I understand that the helicopter available to Parks to fight the fire was very limited in its capacity, in that it could only hold a limited amount of water for aerial bombardment of the fire and only for some two to three minutes. Can you confirm that?
2. Given the limitations of this single helicopter at Park's disposal, why didn't Parks seek other firefighting assets from interstate rather than let this fire burn through Kakadu for over a week?

**Answer:**

1. Parks Australia had access to an R44 and a Jetranger helicopter which were used simultaneously to help manage the fire and are capable of carrying up to 300 and 500 litres of water respectively. Physical access to water and water supplies prevented the use of larger aerial bombing apparatus.
2. Two helicopters were deployed by Parks Australia to help manage the fire. Access to adequate water bodies and supplies limited our opportunities to engage additional support from interstate.