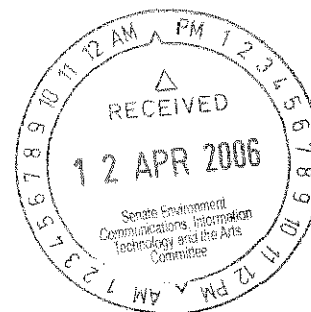




Mayor's Office



The Secretary  
Senate Environment  
Communications Information Technology and Arts Reference Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Facsimile (02) 62775818

Dear Secretary,

**RE: INQUIRY INTO AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL PARKS, CONSERVATION RESERVES AND MARINE PROTECTED AREAS.**

Alice Springs Town Council at the March Council meeting resolved that Council forward a late submission to the Senate Inquiry following the receipt of the attached letter from Senator Judith Adams.

A key goal of the *Alice Springs Town Council Strategic Plan 2005 – 2009* is 'To lead Australia in the management of its arid land natural resources.' Alice Springs' vast and unspoiled landscapes attract visitors from around the world.

National Parks not only contribute to an enviable lifestyle for Centralians but also our livelihood. Tourism continues to be of major economic importance for Alice Springs. Our National Parks offer many experiences for our national and international visitors including, nature tourism and provide opportunities for outdoor experiences such as bushwalking and rock climbing.

The process of management of National Parks should be in the best interests of current and future Australians and at the same time ensure sustainable ecological benefits. This includes the engagement of Aboriginal people in all aspects of parks and conservation management that can contribute to the well-being of regional communities.

Improved coordination and collaboration between the three levels of government, government departments and the private sector is required to promote the protection of ecosystems and natural habitats and at the same time provide recreational and tourism opportunities for all Australians and our international visitors. It is important that ongoing research is continued to be funded to develop strategic and systematic approaches and to support informed policy and funding decisions.

Yours sincerely,

Fran Kilgariff  
MAYOR

3.15 pm.  
07 APR 2006  
FAXED OUT

7 April 2006

