

Hon Sussan Ley
Minister for the Environment
Australian Government
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Wednesday, May 6, 2020

RE: Seeking Assurance of Funding for the North Australian Fire Information Service

Dear Minister,

As we have learned from our experience of the terrible bushfire season in 2019/20, effective fire management requires accurate and real-time spatial information to enable land managers to understand the location of current fires and the fire history of the area.

The **North Australian Fire Information (NAFI)** website (www.firenorth.org.au) is a free-to-access, high quality fire management tool available to the general public. The service is particularly targeted at land managers and land management agencies across northern Australia to support both planning and undertaking of fire management, including by Indigenous ranger groups, land owners, conservation park managers and the pastoral sector. The adoption and ongoing refinement of this tool has been a major factor in supporting the success of fire management across the north (see [ABC Rural News¹](#), 29 April 2020).

Additionally, the NAFI service supports the tools required to calculate and report on the abatement of carbon equivalent emissions from savanna burning carbon projects. This underpins the savanna carbon farming industry which has driven so much recent improvement in fire management outcomes as well as the generation of tens of thousands of Australian Carbon Credit Units. (see 2020 North Australian Savanna Fire Forum website²). These projects require long-term commitments by landholders and land managers to improved savanna fire management outcomes, therefore it is critical that they can rely on this service in the long-term.

NAFI is a critical tool for fire managers as it maps satellite derived hotspots and fire scars – information needed by fire managers on a daily basis. At a cost of just **\$750,000 a year to support its basic operation**, this represents a highly effective investment in the future of fire management in Australia (see *Attachment 1: NAFI Funding case*).

¹ <https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2020-04-29/nafi-fire-fighting-tool-under-funding-cloud/12193210>

² www.savannafireforum.net

We, the undersigned, call for the Australian Government to provide long-term (minimum 3+ years) funding support for the North Australian Fire Information service (or NAFI) beyond June 2020.

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To respond to this letter, please contact Anna Boustead, Coordinator of the Indigenous Carbon Industry Network and copy in those representatives listed.

We look forward to your response to this urgent matter.

Kind regards,

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CC: Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction, Angus Taylor; Minister for Agriculture and Emergency Management, David Littleproud