Territorians Win Prestigious Environment Award

Natural Resources Minister Karl Hampton today congratulated a group of Indigenous rangers for winning a prestigious environment award at the weekend.

Mr Hampton said the Warddeken Rangers in partnership with the Jawoyn Association Aboriginal Corporation, Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation, Minmarl and Adjumararl Rangers took out the Indigenous Caring for Country category at this year’s Banksia Awards in recognition of its highly successful West Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (WALFA) Partnership.

“This world first project began in 2005 and reduced more than 700,000 tonnes of greenhouse emissions from wildfires between 2006 and 2010,” Mr Hampton said.

“This is well above the annual target of 100,000 tonnes and highlights the successful combination of western science and traditional knowledge in making a positive impact on the environment.

“Since this group started re-introducing early Dry season fires into nearly 30,000 square kilometres of the Arnhem Land Plateau it has saved a significant amount of greenhouse gas emissions, and the project has supported more than 100 jobs since it began, which is a tremendous result for our environment and community.”

Mr Hampton said this win would inspire more northern Australian Indigenous groups to get involved in positive environmental projects such as this one.

“This is one of those projects that make you proud to be a Territorian,” Mr Hampton said.

“It involves cooperation between Aboriginal Territorians, scientists, Government officers and ConocoPhillips over a long period of time and we are now leading the world in this technology.

“We hope that by 2020 that 20 per cent of the Territory will be managed this way, which will be good for Aboriginal people, good for the Territory and good for the planet.

“The Territory is making a significant contribution to helping the world reduce greenhouse gas emissions, first by supplying clean energy and now perhaps by helping other nations reduce their greenhouse emissions from bushfires as well.”

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