## Senate Community Affairs Committee ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO 2013-14 Budget Estimates Hearings

## **Outcome Number:** 7

**Ouestion No: 409** 

Topic: Mr Dillon's proposed appointment to the Indigenous Land Corporation

Hansard Page: Written

## Senator Scullion asked:

Documents released under Freedom of Information show Mr Dillon was sent many emails about the removal of the previous chairman of the Indigenous Land Corporation. Please detail the extent and nature of his role in the previous Chair's removal. Can you please provide all the emails that were sent to Mr Dillon from the Chairperson of the ILC and replies relating to Mr Galvin's tenure as ILC CEO, as well as departmental and ministerial office emails regarding Mr Galvin's tenure.

## Answer:

The Question on Notice seeks access to a number of documents, being 'emails that were sent to Mr Dillon from the Chairperson of the ILC and replies relating to Mr Galvin's tenure as ILC CEO, as well as departmental and ministerial office emails regarding Mr Galvin's tenure'. A substantially similar request for documents was made to the Department under *the Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act). An independent delegate of the Department made a decision in accordance with the FOI Act to grant access to some documents, but to refuse access to others under that request. The decision to exempt some documents is currently the subject of an external review by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC). The Department considers it would be inappropriate to pre-empt or prejudice that independent decision-making process through the voluntary disclosure of documents which are subject to exemption claims in respect of which the OAIC is now seised of jurisdiction. As such, the Department is unable to provide documents which were exempted from disclosure in relation to the above request until the external review decision has been finalised.

All documents (including emails) that can be released at this time have been released to the applicants and published on the Department's disclosure log in accordance with section 11C of the FOI Act. The Department's disclosure log can be found at http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/about-fahcsia/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log. The relevant FOI request numbers are 12/13-007 and 12/13-072.