

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2016 - 2017 Additional Estimates
2 March 2017

AGENCY: NORTHERN AUSTRALIA INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITY

TOPIC: Conflict of Interest Policy

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Waters

QUESTION No.: AI-73

1. Did NAIF seek outside assistance in developing your conflict of interest guidelines?
 - a) Who provided that assistance?
2. NAIF's conflict of interest policy indicates that for the Board of Directors a disclosure of interests will need to be kept and updated by the Board Secretary (pg 4 - NAIF Conflicts of Interests Policy)
 - a) Will these disclosures be made public?
3. The policy mentions a couple of examples about directors with interests in other companies who actually apply for NAIF funding. They are examples of clear conflict of interest.
 - a) Do you have a view on the potential conflict of interest for directors like Ms Karla Way-McPhail who runs two mining contracting companies? The website of her firm Undamine Industries which is a black coal contracting company says that its "Central Queensland base allows us to effectively serve areas such as the Galilee Basin and beyond."

ANSWER

1. Yes. NAIF developed the policy with input including from Efic (in its capacity as NAIF's service provider).
2. NAIF takes the view that disclosures of material personal interests are made by Directors to NAIF on a confidential basis. NAIF is also bound by obligations under the *Privacy Act 1988* regarding the disclosure of personal information in these disclosures, however, information regarding directorships held by Directors is publically available.
3. The NAIF Board actively manages all actual or perceived conflicts of interest in accordance with applicable legislative requirements and the NAIF Investment Mandate Direction 2016. The NAIF Board has an endorsed Conflict of Interest Policy (available at <http://naif.gov.au/about-us/naif-governance/>) and Directors are also accountable for requirements under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.