

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

Outcome 2 – Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW0719_13

Senator Scullion asked on 18 October 2012 , Hansard page 68

Question

Length of lease at Garrthalala

Senator SCULLION: But you would be aware of the lease. You have not just said, 'Give us some sort of lease.' You would have said, 'We would like'. So what is the Commonwealth position on the nature of the land tenure under which you are making this investment? Mr Hansen: I am not sure that I have that information. Senator SCULLION: The notional process in the opposition's policy and what appears to be the government's policy is that we do not build public infrastructure on private land. For that reason we are very cautious about the particular lease under which this is held. You would be aware of other places in the Northern Territory where there is considerable angst about not having an underpinning lease and organisations being asked to leave private land, leaving behind their infrastructure, which is causing some difficulties at the moment. What would be the notional idea of an underpinning lease of the government with regard to these investments? Would it be like a 40-year lease? I am just looking for a type. The Northern Land Council has a number of ways they can do it, but it is very important that we know or understand exactly what the Commonwealth's intention is. Mr Hansen: I do not have the length of the lease, sorry. Senator SCULLION: Perhaps somebody today could take that on notice. Ms Paul: We will take that on notice.

Answer

The Department has lodged an application for a 20 year lease with an option for a further 20 years over the subject land with the Northern Land Council.