

Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

The committee met on Friday, 29 May 2015 from 9 am until 3 pm.

The committee called the following Departments and agencies in relation to Cross Portfolio Indigenous matters: the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C), the Department of Health, the Northern Land Council (NLC), the Tiwi Land Council, the Office of Township Leasing, the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC), Aboriginal Hostels Limited (AHL), and the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations.

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- governance and financial management of the NLC after the release of the ANAO audit report,
- the NLC Action Plan and senior management training, performance and appointment,
- the annual report of the Tiwi Land Council, including the employment status of the current chief executive officer (CEO) and the election process for the CEO and Council members,
- the Tiwi Development Framework Agreement, including the Council's role and statutory obligations in the negotiation of the lease,
- the development of Port Melville, including the requirement for environmental and social impact assessments, employment strategies and consultation processes,
- the role of the Office of Township Leasing in the negotiation of land leases in the community,
- the purchase of the Ayers Rock Resort by the ILC, including debt, refinancing, and the investigation of the purchase,
- the non-attendance of the ILC Chairperson at the hearing,
- staffing arrangement and costs at the ILC and an increase in Canberra-based staff,
- with reference to AHL, the Corporation and Partnership Program, the Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) grant and the percentage of Aboriginal employees,
- with reference to the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations, statutory directors' duties, and rules and accounting requirements for prescribed bodies corporate,
- Departmental staffing issues, including redundancies and Indigenous employment strategy at PM&C,
- staff housing, including arrangement, sales and financial management,
- the application and allocation process and outcome of the IAS grant,
- Working on Country program funding,
- the funding application and determination process in relation to the Indigenous Protected Areas Programme,

- the funding process, and reapplication process for existing service providers, in relation to the Learn Earn Legend! Programme,
- Commonwealth funding in relation to the Stronger Future Partnership agreement,
- funding for various indigenous health programs,
- the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan, including its timeline and plan development,
- contract arrangements for Primary Health Networks,
- renal patient care,
- Aboriginal health service providers and issues in relation to their viability,
- the Tackling Indigenous Smoking measure, including its funding and redesigned program, and
- staffing in the Department of Health.