

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Select Committee hearing on the effectiveness of the Australian Government's Northern Australia agenda

During the senate committee hearing in Darwin on Wednesday 6 November, the Northern Territory Government took the following additional questions on notice.

Q1. Has the Northern Territory Government engaged with financial institutions in relation to housing and investment on Aboriginal owned land? If so, what strategies or policies have been developed?

The Northern Territory Government is not aware of any engagement with financial institutions in relation to housing and investment on Aboriginal owned land.

Q2. Is the Northern Territory Government working with the Australian Government in ensuring a coordinated approach to employment opportunities for First Nations people across northern Australia? If so, what strategies or programs have been developed or enacted? What results have these strategies or programs delivered?

The Northern Territory Government engages with the Australian Government to support employment opportunities for Aboriginal Territorians. This works best when policies, programs and initiatives across all tiers of government are aligned and there is genuine commitment to work together. An example of this is the successful Sea Ranger Program, which is a collaboration between both Governments, local councils, community and private sector.

Other examples include:

- the Local Jobs for Local People program is administered by the Northern Territory Government (Australian Government funded) which aims to increase Aboriginal employment through apprenticeships/traineeships in remote communities
- engagement with the Australian Government on developing the Northern Territory Government's Aboriginal Contracting Framework
- the Northern Territory Government's Aboriginal Employment and Career Development Strategy which is increasing Aboriginal employment within the Northern Territory Public Service. Over 2015-20, the Strategy seeks to increase Aboriginal employment by 16% at a general level, and by 16% at the management and executive level
- a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between relevant Australian and Northern Territory Government agencies on training and employment first signed in 2009 which is currently being refreshed to broaden the agencies signed up to the MoU
- the Northern Territory Government will be assisting the Indigenous Reference Group in development of the scoping and design of a Northern Australia Indigenous Economic Development Body and Enterprise and Employment Hub Network

The Northern Territory Government is currently developing a submission for the Pathways and Participation Opportunities for Indigenous Australians in Employment and Business for the House Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs, which will provide greater detail on Aboriginal employment in the Northern Territory.

Contact details for further information

Please direct any queries about this submission to Ms Claire Georae, Director Industry Development, Department of Trade, Business and Innovation on [redacted] or by email at [redacted]