

NLC Additional Questions on Notice Friday 26 April 2024

Senate Environment and Communications Committee – Inquiry into Middle Arm

**Senator Thorpe - written:**

In relation to payments to NLC members from Santos, AEP (formerly APPEA) and any other fossil fuel companies:

1. How many members have received payments, and who are they?
2. How much have they been paid, and by whom?
3. What are they being paid for?
4. Have there been any declarations of conflicts of interest by these members?
5. How has the NLC managed these conflicts of interest? Are all NLC members, and the communities they represent, aware of these payments?
6. What records or registers does the NLC keep of different associations that NLC members keep, including associations that involve financial payments from proponents?
7. Traditional Custodians from Nurrdalindi Aboriginal Corporation requested during the roundtable that the NLC work with the community to sort out issues of representation and to ensure broader involvement of Traditional Owners in decision-making. What steps is the NLC undertaking to address these concerns and improve adherence to the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent, particularly in relation to Traditional Owners in the Beetaloo Basin region?

**ANSWER:**

Answers 1 – 6: The NLC is not privy to the nature of arrangements that members may have when acting outside their capacity as an NLC council member.

It is a requirement of the NLC Members Code of Conduct that members declare real or perceived conflicts of interest to the NLC.

Conflicts of interest that are declared by members are recorded on the NLC Members Conflict of Interest Register.

Answer 7:

Who the NLC consults with, for an area that will be impacted by a particular activity, is based on relevant legislation, and legal and anthropological advice. The NLC places the principles of free, prior and informed consent at the centre of our consultation processes.