

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2011-12 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 305

Topic: Township Leasing

Hansard Page: 17/02/2012 - CA23

Senator Scullion asked:

Does the Government intend as a matter of policy to ensure that we are not able to further levy communities for access or use of the airstrips or barge landings?

Answer:

In circumstances where there is an airstrip or barge landing on Aboriginal land under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*, it is a matter for the traditional owners and any person with an interest in the land to determine how that land is used, including as to whether fees are levied for its use.

In relation to access arrangements, the permit system provides limited public rights of access to common areas in certain major communities on Aboriginal land in the Northern Territory and access to those communities by air, sea or public road. The limited public rights of access do not extend to the landing or berthing of a vessel or aircraft at a barge landing or airstrip.