



Parliament of Australia

Senate

Community Affairs Legislation Committee

Estimates (hearing 3 June 2011)

Northern Land Council

Further response to questions on notice

9 February 2012

**SENATE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**ESTIMATES (HEARING 3 JUNE 2011)**

**FURTHER RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

On 3 June 2011 the Northern Land Council (NLC) appeared before the Committee in Canberra. On 8 August 2011 the NLC provided a written response regarding certain questions on notice.

By way of additional clarification, the NLC further responds below.

**1.1 Commonwealth radioactive waste management facility (Senator Ludlam)**

Senator Ludlam asked (no 205):

*Have either Mr Hill or Mr Levy visited Tennant Creek or the parts surrounding that area to discuss the nomination of Muckaty as a toxic waste dump with traditional owners? Has there been a request received by the NLC that has not been met to visit Tennant Creek or the parts surrounding that area to discuss the nomination of Muckaty as a toxic waste dump with traditional owners?*

These questions were answered during oral evidence (see pages 44 to 46 of the Hansard). Mr Levy explained that he visited the region at the time of the nomination for that purpose. Mr Hill explained that the NLC has a presence in the region and regularly conducts meetings regarding a range of projects, at which matters pertaining to the NLC's 2007 nomination may be raised. Mr Hill noted that some such matters were outside the NLC's statutory responsibility or involved the release of private or privileged information, in which case a query could not be met. Likewise some requests for the NLC to attend meetings, such as a forum in Tennant Creek (to which Mr Hill referred in evidence), could not be met.

**1.2 Barge landings (construction and maintenance) – (Senator Scullion)**

Senator Scullion asked (no 228):

*Who currently funds the construction and maintenance of the barge landings?*

This question was answered during oral evidence (see page 53 of the Hansard). Senator Scullion correctly noted that various barge landings were originally constructed by and maintained by Governments, and Mr Hill indicated that the proponent bears responsibilities as stated in licences.

By way of further clarification, the non-exclusive licences granted for barge landings are for terms of up to 10 years. The licensees are not responsible under those licences for the maintenance of barge landings.

**1.3 Barge landings (quantum of rental fee) – (Senator Scullion)**

Senator Scullion asked (no 229):

*Please provide a one page response about how the NLC satisfies itself that when a new barge comes into the business which will increase competition and push down rates that its impact will not result in passing on the increase in prices.*

In addition to the oral evidence given to the Committee (see pages 53 to 54 of the Hansard), this question was answered in the NLC's written response stated 8 August 2011 (see last paragraph of section 1.4).

#### **1.4 Public comments by Northern Land Council – (Senator Scullion)**

Senator Scullion asked (no 235):

*Please provide a copy of the minutes of the executive meeting of the NLC that confirms that the full executive of the NLC publicly called for the sacking of Warren Snowdon and Senator Crossin.*

In addition to the oral evidence given to the Committee including Mr Levy's evidence that such information would not be in the minutes (see pages 46 to 48 of the Hansard), this question was answered in the NLC's written response stated 8 August 2011 (see section 1.2).

Naturally, if requested, the NLC would be pleased to provide any further clarification or information in relation to the above matters.