

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Additional Estimates 24-28 February 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Topic:** Lhere Artepe

**Senator:** Senator Zed Seselja

**Question reference number:** 112

**Type of Question:** FPA, Friday 28 February 2014, page 43

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 11 April 2014

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Senator Seselja: There is one other aspect, and I am not sure if you will be able to answer it, but we will see, because there are few elements to it. I understand that the former CEO negotiated a loan of \$3.5 million with a finance company and then attempted to reduce the loan by selling blocks from the company's Mount Johns residential real estate development. Are you aware of those transactions?

Mr Fry: Again, this occurred before we got involved with the supermarkets. I am aware that there is another entity with Lhere Artepe which is involved in a subdivision. I believe that subdivision blocks continue to be sold. I would not like to make comment as to the initial scope of where that subdivision was, the number of blocks and so forth, but I understand that the subdivision has been completed and blocks continue to be sold. In fact, I had a look at one of the blocks the last time I was in Alice Springs to understand the wider group interests. They seem to be well marketed and in a good location. It is a new subdivision of significant homes.

Senator SESELJA: Maybe you could check some of the detail you are not able to comment on now and take on notice whether or not you have any further detail on that.

Mr Fry: Certainly.

**Answer:**

The comments made at the hearing were from personal knowledge. Indigenous Business Australia is not party to the subdivision transaction, therefore, no further comment can be made.