

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Finance and Public Administration Friday 27 February 2015**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Northern Land Council  
**Outcome/Program:** 2 – Indigenous  
**Topic:** Financial Management

**Senator:** Dean Smith

**Question reference number:** 56

**Type of question:** FPA, Friday 27 February 2015, page 7

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 10 April 2015

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

**Senator SMITH:** Mr Morrison, who is on the audit committee that you refer to in your earlier evidence?

**Mr Morrison:** There are two executive members, Mr John Christopherson, Ms Helen Lee, and Susan Archiball from an accounting firm. There is one position vacant that we are currently looking to fill.

**Senator SMITH:** How long has that position been vacant for?

**Mr Morrison:** I cannot say, sorry. I do not think it has been that long. It is in the order of six months, but I would have to clarify that.

**CHAIR:** Not for your entire team. It is your chief executive officer.

**Mr Morrison:** No.

**Senator SMITH:** How many times has the audit committee met in the last 12 months?

**CHAIR:** Mr Morrison, if someone is available to provide more detailed information, you are more than welcome for them to join us at the table.

**Ms Liddle:** I have been with the organisation since October. It has met on a needs basis. To my knowledge, I believe that they have met on two occasions since I have been with the NLC.

**Senator SMITH:** Audit committees meeting on a needs basis I doubt very strongly is best practice for audit committees of any organisation. In your governance framework, do you have a requirement that the audit committee meets a minimum number of times per year, Mr Morrison?

**Mr Morrison:** I would have to take that on notice. The audit committee meets when the audit accounts are finalised to approve those and any other issues arising out of session. There are regular meetings that I'm aware of, but I do not know what that number is off the top of my head.

**Answer:**

**Current Audit Committee Membership:**

Current Members of NLC Audit Committee as of 16 March:

1. Chair: Suzanne Archbold (Non-Executive Member) Partner – Growth Solutions – Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Darwin
2. Helen Lee (Executive member)
3. John Christopherson (Executive Member)
4. Vacancy. This position has been vacant since August 2013 (representing a period of 18 months)

**Previous Audit Committee membership:**

The previous Audit Committee membership consisted of:

1. Chair: Raylene Webb QC
2. Mr Barry Thomas (Deloitte)
3. Mr Bunug Galaminda (Executive Member)

**Meeting Frequency**

The current NLC Audit Committee has met 5 times in the last 12 months:

- 02/04/14
- 17/06/14
- 24/09/14
- 09/01/15
- 13/03/15

Under the current Audit Committee Charter (dated 21 September 2010), the committee must meet at least 3 times per year.

Under the draft Audit Committee Charter, the committee must meet at least 4 times per year, in accordance with current best practice guidelines.