

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Finance and Public Administration Committee

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Northern Land Council
Outcome/Program: 2 – Indigenous
Topic: NLC ANAO Review

Senator: Dean Smith
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Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator SMITH: The recommendations of the review came out in October 2014. What is the status of those recommendations? Have they been implemented?

Mr Morrison: A number of recommendations have been provided.

Senator SMITH: How many recommendations?

Mr Morrison: There are at least 15. I do not have the exact number at hand, but I do have the recommendations in front of me.

Senator SMITH: How many had been implemented?

Mr Morrison: It has been coded according to the priority in terms of the recommendations, and I am confident that most of the high priority or the most urgent matters are being dealt with or have already been dealt with internally. Some of the things associated with dealing with conflicts of interest, gifts and other registers and credit card policies.

Senator SMITH: Is that the report there?

Mr Morrison: That is not the report. I do not have the report.

Senator SMITH: Could you provide us with the report? Could you then, against each of the recommendations, provide us with information about whether they have been fully implemented, initiated but not yet completed or not yet initiated?

Answer:

Two reports are tabled for Senators' consideration:

Attachment A	Deloitte Northern Land Council Independent review of Governance Framework Processes (Governance Report)
Attachment B	Deloitte NLC Management Action Plan (MAP)

The 'Governance Report' (Attachment A) was developed by Deloitte Partners for the NLC, in collaboration with the then Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. The Management Action Plan, (MAP) (Attachment B) was developed by

the NLC with input from FaHCSIA and is, principally, a roadmap for the NLC to address the recommendations contained within the report.

The Northern Land Council has made substantial progress against the outcomes in the MAP. Under this approach, the NLC is progressing key documents including:

- Strategic Plan
- Corporate Plan
- Business Plans
- Risk Management policy
- Conflict of Interest Register
- Gifts and Benefits Register
- Internal and External Complaints Register

Specific to financial matters, the NLC continues to make steady progress against issues raised in the Deloitte Review, including:

- Consultant/Contractor engagement policy and register
- Cost Recovery Policy
- Credit and Debit Card policy
- A process for the Engagement of casual employees
- Asset management and Disposal Policy

Concurrent to this progress is an agreed and healthy partnership with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Through this partnership, the NLC is working with PM&C to ensure that we improve our capacity to address financial, corporate and governance issues. This includes discussions regarding additional resources to accelerate governance matters, including key recommendations as outlined within the Deloitte report.

To progress the broader recommendations in the Deloitte Report, the NLC has:

- Extended the content of the Senior Management Committee
- Focused and prioritised its Governance Framework including
 - Draft Strategic Plans
 - Draft Corporate Plans
 - Draft Business Plans
- Prioritised its accountability and arrangements on auditing and financial systems