

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Additional Estimates 23-27 February 2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
**Outcome/Program:** Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet  
**Topic:** Northern Australia White Paper

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

**Question reference number:** 51

**Type of question:** FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 120

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

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Senator McLUCAS: What are the costs of preparing the Northern Australia white paper to this period of time?

Mr Williamson: All the costs are met from existing departmental resources, but I think that as at end of December that was about \$2.3 million.

Senator Abetz: That does exclude seconded staff costs.

Senator McLUCAS: That is PM&C costs not seconded staff from other departments?

Senator Abetz: Yes.

Mr Williamson: We have had a couple of staff from the environment department, Foreign Affairs and Trade and so on. It includes PM&C costs and Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development costs.

Senator McLUCAS: At \$2.3 million. If you would like to take on notice and ascertain an evaluation of what the costs of the other secondees would be, that would be useful.

Senator Abetz: That might be extremely difficult. We gave you that other information for fullness. We will take it on notice and do our best, but I think it could be difficult.

**Answer:**

As at 31 December 2014, the cost of secondees from the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Environment, the Treasury, and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is approximately \$448,209. All costs are being absorbed within existing departmental budgets.