

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates Hearing 25-29 May 2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Northern Land Council

Outcome/Program: Outcome 2: Indigenous

Topic: Improvement of governance and financial arrangements

Senator: Senator Dean Smith

Question reference number: 105

Type of question: FPA Friday 29 May 2015, page 7

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

Number of pages: 1

Question: Mr Morrison: The governance and the financial management arrangements are interconnected. At the last hearings here in February, we started a conversation with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet that afternoon. As I returned home, we immediately engaged an external accountant by the name of TKO, who has been providing advice in the process of getting on top of the outstanding ANAO matters. In terms of the governance matters, they will be part of the document that we submit. We are also looking at developing an action plan with the department this coming week for presentation to an Executive Council meeting on Friday of next week. There have been significant processes and procedures reviewed in light of the findings of those reviews that took place prior to my commencement and the last appearance here in February.

Senator SMITH: You will provide me with a copy of the updated document?

Mr Morrison: Yes.

Answer:

Please note a correction to the 4th line is required: the name of external accountant should read Teik Oh.

There are two significant working documents that track initiatives that Northern Land Council has implemented to improve and address finance and governance arrangements.

These documents remain in a form that allows progressive updates and are the:

1. Deloitte Progress Report; and the
2. Governance and Accountability Action Plan (ANAO Report).

The Northern Land Council is unable to provide and table the final Governance and Accountability Action Plan document, but would like to submit the current version that we have been working closely with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet to refine.

The Northern Land Council will provide this document at the next estimates.