

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: Tiwi Land Council

Outcome/Program: Outcome 2: Indigenous

Topic: Port Melville use of development

Senator: Senator Nova Peris OAM

Question reference number: 135

Type of question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Is the new development at Port Melville for sole use as a woodchip exporting facilities or does it have other intended uses?

If other intended uses, what are they?

Answer:

TLC has been consistently advised by TPC that the export of woodchip and other Tiwi forest products alone could not justify nor sustain the development of suitable port facilities for exporting woodchip. As a consequence, TLC has accepted that other uses of port facilities need to be investigated. Proposals for other uses have included servicing the oil and gas industry, possibly in conjunction with Darwin Port where there are obvious synergies; providing support for the commercial fishing industry, and providing refuelling facilities for other vessels including commercial freighters, Australian customs, Australian marine enforcement authorities, and the Australian Navy. These are all proposals and at this stage the only firm customer for Port Melville that Tiwi Land Council is aware of, is Tiwi Plantations Corporation Pty Ltd for the export of Tiwi woodchip.