

**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:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Topic:** Whitepaper on Northern Australia

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

**Question reference number:** 36

**Type of question:** FPA Tuesday 26 May 2015, page 46

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

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Senator McLUCAS: To be very clear, I am not asking: "when did we know there was a vacuum for infrastructure in northern Australia". Everyone has known that for a very long time. The question I am asking is: when did we come to a view that a concessional loan facility would be a solution?

Senator Cormann: And that is exactly the question that I have taken on notice; to see whether we might be able to provide you with a precise date for that.

**Answer:**

The Government considered a range of options, informed by a range of stakeholders and other inputs, in the development of the White Paper.