

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 Penny Wong

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Question:

Senator WONG: Was it an initiative of—did the Prime Minister request an NPP in the budget process, in this form?

Senator Cormann: I have already taken on notice the question of when the idea was first considered by government. In that context, I am very happy to add to that response—to the extent we can if that information is readily available—who it was that first put the proposition on the table. Suffice to say, in this government there are orderly and methodical processes when it comes to the consideration of policy options, and they were applied in relation to this particular proposal. It went through the usual process—including getting authority from the Prime Minister—for a proposal like this to be brought forward in the context of our budget process.

Senator WONG: Who sought the authority?

Senator Cormann: I will take that on notice.

Answer:

The proposal was considered by the Government in the context of the Budget process.