

**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:** 41

**Type of question:** FPA Tuesday 26 May 2015, page 48

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**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Senator McLUCAS: Thank you. The advisory group, now: with the white paper being released nearer to the middle of the year, is it still in existence?

Mr McDonald: It has completed its report and provided it to the task force. That is the final report, and I am not sure what the terms and the conditions are—whether they have technically wound up now—but they are very close to winding up.

Senator McLUCAS: So they have not actually wound up?

Mr McDonald: I am not sure whether technically they are wound up, but their final report has been provided.

Senator McLUCAS: It does actually say, if you go to the government board's website, it is part of the PM&C cabinet portfolio and functions in an advisory capacity, and then it says that everything is vacant—so it exists, but with no membership. That website has had problems in the past, I know that, but I am just trying to ascertain if it is still there. Have they received a letter saying, "Thanks very much, see you later"? What has happened?

Mr McDonald: I can take on notice what the terms of the actual agreement are with the board—about when their terms run out—but the final report has been provided to government.

Senator McLUCAS: And you will tell us when they are finished.

Mr McDonald: I will let you know whether that satisfies the terms of their engagement.

**Answer:**

The Northern Australia Advisory Group's terms of appointment expired on 20 May 2015, and the former Prime Minister provided a letter of thanks to each of the Advisory Group members.