

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 20-24 October 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 2: Indigenous
Topic: Payment to Tiwi Resources

Senator: Senator Nova Peris

Question reference number: 35

Type of question: FPA Friday 24 October 2014, page 15

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 December 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator PERIS: The Australian reported yesterday that you, the Minister, refused to investigate allegations relating to a million-dollar payment to Tiwi Resources that appears to have gone missing. Is this correct?

Senator Scullion: I think I will have to take that on notice. When you are taking newspaper articles, you could take from that that something has actually been submitted to me and I have specifically said, "No, I am not going to do something." That may not necessarily be the case. Outside of the comments I am about to make, I will take some of those on notice. Yes, there have been some allegations in the media about particular matters. I am satisfied that those particular matters that are before us in the media are not accurate in so far as I do not believe that there has been any mischief with regard to those matters. But I will ensure that, if there is some correspondence that I am unaware of, I will make sure you receive that on notice.

Answer:

The land deal negotiations and payments reported by *The Australian* are matters between the Northern Territory Government and Tiwi Land Council. No lease or agreement negotiated as part of this land deal has been submitted to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion, to consider and approve under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*.