

**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:** Port on Melville Island - lease

**Senator:** Senator Nova Peris

**Question reference number:** 36

**Type of question:** FPA Friday 24 October 2014, page 16

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

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Senator PERIS: Minister, a lease has been granted for the port on Melville Island. Did you approve this lease?

Senator Scullion: If it is a lease approved under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act I would have, but again I would have to take that on notice—the time or any other details around that.

Senator PERIS: Is it correct that under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act you have to approve any land council business venture over \$1 million?

Senator Scullion: I will have to take that on notice. Is that the case?

Mr Owen: That is correct.

Senator Scullion: I understand that is the case.

Senator PERIS: So you have done that in relation to Port Melville?

Senator Scullion: Again, to my recollection, I approve as you can imagine an awful lot of things—I would have to take that on notice but I am pretty sure that I recall that that is the case.

**Answer:**

This twelve-year lease between Tiwi Aboriginal Land Trust and Port Melville Pty Ltd was executed on 3 October 2008, during the term of a previous government. Under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* Ministerial consent for the grant of a lease is required where the term of the lease exceeds 40 years and/or the monies payable under the lease exceed \$1 million.