

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 – social impact study

Senator: Senator Nova Peris

Question reference number: 46

Type of question: FPA Friday 24 October 2014, page 30

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator PERIS: I put on record—and perhaps you are able to follow up—because that has been addressed to me: that the Tiwi people have not seen a social impact study.

Senator Scullion: We will check if it is a requirement, but if it is not a requirement the traditional owners of that land, the people who own that land, have the right, under the ALRA legislation, to make decisions about what happens on their land. I understand, as you have indicated, they are duly elected and they have gone through all of the processes of setting out the port and what happens in the port, and they have made those investments accordingly. As to some legislative requirement to have some sort of social impact statement that they have not done, I will certainly take that on notice.

Answer:

This is a matter for the Northern Territory Government that administers the *Environmental Assessment Act 1982 (the Act)*.