

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 19-23 October 2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 2: Indigenous
Topic: Northern Australia White Paper

Senator: Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

Question reference number: 299

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 4 December 2015

Number of pages: 1

Question:

The Northern Australia White Paper says the COAG investigation will “consider any agreed reform directions to Indigenous land administration and use” (page 31). What does this mean?

- a) Does this mean that only agreed policy directions will be recommended by the Review?
- b) Agreed with whom? Land Councils and traditional owners?

Answer:

As part of the COAG Investigation into Indigenous land administration and use, directions and specific proposals for Indigenous land reform announced in the White Paper on Developing Northern Australia were considered and further developed, with the direct involvement of Indigenous leaders.

The Investigation prepared a Report to COAG developed by a Senior Officers Working Group, including officers from the Commonwealth, New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia and Victoria. An Expert Indigenous Working Group was appointed to guide the Investigation and provided significant input to the Report.

The Senior Officers Working Group agreed on the recommendations of the Report to COAG. These were largely agreed with the Expert Indigenous Working Group, but where not agreed this is clearly noted in the Report for further consultation. The recommendations were informed by a stakeholder consultation process which included Land Councils and traditional owners. Governments’ position on the Report is a matter for COAG.