

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 Australian White Paper

Senator: Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

Question reference number: 302

Type of question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

On page 31 of the Northern Australia White Paper it advocates for Commonwealth Government action which could include delegation of Land Council functions to Aboriginal corporations.

- a. Did the Minister approve this content?
- b. Is the Government still considering this despite the Minister's undertaking?

Answer:

- a. The Minister for Indigenous Affairs was involved in the development and approval of the White Paper. The White Paper was endorsed by the Government.
- b. The Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Amendment Bill 2015 was passed by Parliament in the Spring sittings 2015. This Bill amended the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* to improve the delegation of Land Council powers and functions for both Land Councils and applicants for delegations. The Northern Territory Land Councils received Exposure Drafts of the Bill and agreed to the amendments.