

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: 303

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 discusses potential amendments to the Northern Territory Aboriginal Land Rights Act (ALRA).

- a. Did the Land Councils request a review of the ALRA?
- b. Did the Minister seek the consent of Land Councils and traditional owners before including this proposal in the White Paper?

Answer:

The White Paper on Developing Northern Australia identified certain policy directions and proposals in respect of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth) (ALRA) but did not recommend a review of this legislation. The Minister for Indigenous Affairs has said he will not amend the ALRA without the agreement of Land Councils in this term of government.