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: 305
Type of question: Written
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Number of pages: 1

Question:

The Northern Australia White Paper states that the Government will invest $10.6 million to support pilot land projects, developed in partnership with business and Indigenous Australians, to provide simpler and more efficient ways of investing in a wide range of activities.

a.   Where is this being funded from? Is it new money?
b.   Is the money available now? What is committed per annum and over how many years?
c.   What is the process for distribution of the money? Is there an application process?
d.   Have Guidelines for the funding been drafted?
e.   Who makes the decision about what projects to fund?

Answer:

a.   The land reform pilot funding is additional money to support the projects.
b.   Funding for 2015-16 will transfer after Additional Estimates. The funding is not committed as yet. Funding for the land reform pilots will be available over four years.
c.   The White Paper flags a number of possible pilots. The process for funding within this portfolio will depend on the nature of the pilots.
d.   Refer to answer C above.
e.   The Minister for Indigenous Affairs is responsible for determining pilots within his portfolio, in consultation with relevant Ministers and key stakeholders including the governments of Western Australia, Queensland and the Northern Territory, and Indigenous organisations. The business friendly information measure is the one pilot which falls outside the Indigenous Affairs portfolio. This measure is the responsibility of the Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister Robb.