

**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:** 306

**Type of question:** Written

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

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

The Northern Australia White Paper states that the Government will invest \$17 million to improve land administration and support new township leases in the NT, including pursuing 99 year township leases.

- 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 specific activities is this money to be used for?
- d) Will it be paid to the Office of Township Leasing or can Land Councils and traditional owners access the funding? Can the NT Government access the funding?
- e) What is the process?

**Answer:**

- a. The land administration and township leasing funding is additional money for the portfolio to support the project.
- b. Funding for 2015-16 will transfer after additional estimates. The funding is not committed yet. Funding will be available over three years.
- c. The \$17 million will be used to kick-start economic development in township lease communities; for scoping of township lease communities, support future development in township lease communities and reduce development costs for proponents; and to support the implementation of remote place-based land administration planning in the Northern Territory.
- d. The funds which go to kick-starting economic development would go to traditional owners and/or relevant providers according to the nature of the projects chosen by traditional owners. Funds for scoping of essential services are expected to go to contractors engaged via the Northern Territory Government. Land administration funds

will be appointed via a grant selection process, therefore could be delivered by the Northern Territory Government, its contractors or any providers which are successful in the grant process.

- e. The providers will be appointed via a grant selection process.