

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

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Indigenous Land Corporation
Topic: Refinancing of Ayers Rock Resort

Senator: Senator Siewert

Question reference number: 49

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator SIEWERT: Mr Dillon, regarding the 3 September letter, did you not approach them directly earlier asking them for the government to assist with the refinancing to come up with a process?

Mr Dillon: I would need to check that because there has been so much correspondence. Whilst it has been clear to the ILC that we needed to find a solution to the refinancing and that there were potentially lateral solutions, if you like, it is not clear to me when actually the ILC put a proposal to the government. I can check that for you.

Answer:

On 29 June 2015 the then ILC Chairperson wrote to the Minister for Finance proposing that the ILC be allowed to access a one-off loan from the Land Account to assist in refinancing the Ayers Rock Resort debt. The Finance Minister responded on 29 July 2015, referring the matter to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs.

On 3 September 2015 this proposal was again put formally to the Minister for Finance and the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, and the letter copied to the Treasurer.

The then ILC Chairperson wrote to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs on 28 September 2015, after learning that Minister Scullion raised with an ILC Director a preference to explore the Australian Government accessing loan funds rather than the ILC's proposal to borrow from the Land Account. The letter sought formal advice on the Minister's preferred way forward. A response has not been received.