

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 Australia White Paper – two initiatives

Senator: Senator Rachel Siewert

Question reference number: 62

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Question:

Ms Marie Taylor: As I said, there are a number of specific initiatives funded through the Northern Australia white paper. There was a \$20.4 million measure to support PBCs. We are working with the PBCs to identify how best to roll out that initiative—funding does not flow until MYEFO. There is also an additional \$17 million to support township leasing and a \$10.6 million measure to support innovative land tenure pilots. ...

Senator SIEWERT: Could you take it on notice to outline the other two initiatives—your involvement there and how they have started thinking?

Ms Marie Taylor: Yes.

Answer:

Land administration and township leasing in the Northern Territory

\$17 million to support negotiations for 99 year leases with willing Indigenous communities and implementation of remote place-based land administration planning.

Discussions have commenced with the Northern Territory Government on land administration planning. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is negotiating township leases with interested communities and is continuing its engagement with the Northern Territory Land Councils on leasing models.

Land tenure pilots

\$10.6 million to support pilot reforms that broaden economic activity on land and demonstrate the benefits of reform to investors, Indigenous and other stakeholders.

Pilots will cover opportunities to improve processes relating to native title, other Indigenous land types and pastoral leases. The Government will consult with key stakeholders on possible projects that could be suitable for support as a pilot.