

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates – 2016-17

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Indigenous Land Corporation
Outcome/Program: Outcome 2; Indigenous
Topic: Proposed Amalgamation of IBA and ILC

Senator: Siewert

Question reference number: 201

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 December 2016

Number of pages: 2

Question:

1. Has a feasibility study been undertaken in relation to any proposal to amalgamate the administration of the IBA and the ILC?
 - If so, please provide a copy.
2. If any form of amalgamation has commenced, what procedures have been put in place to protect commercial in confidence information for ILC and IBA?
 - Has legal advice been sought on these aspects of the operations?
 - If so, please provide a copy.
3. Are any amendments to the ILC's and IBA's legislation proposed to accommodate an amalgamation?
4. Are there plans for any other IBA and ILC offices (besides the Canberra offices) to be co-located?
 - If so, where?
 - What are the all the costs involved, including penalties for foregone lease fees?
 - What are the costs of the co-location of the Canberra offices of IBA and ILC?
5. Is it the case that the Acting CEO of the IBA has been attending ILC Board meetings?
 - If yes, please list the meetings they attended.
 - Please explain the rationale for this decision.
6. Have all current IBA and ILC Board members lodged the relevant annual conflict of interest and interests declarations?
 - If not, why not?
 - If not, which Board members have yet to comply?
7. Have any members of the ILC or IBA Board resigned during the last 3 years?
 - If so, when and what were the reasons?

Answer:

1. There is no proposal from the ILC or IBA to amalgamate the two entities. No feasibility study has been commissioned or undertaken by the ILC to consider an amalgamation.

The boards of ILC and IBA have independently and collectively been considering options to become more efficient in the way their respective organisations operate in order to maximise resources for the benefit of Indigenous Australians in line with organisational mandates. As part of these deliberations, the IBA and ILC Boards commissioned a joint project to consider and develop a shared common corporate services model that could provide cost efficiencies and an increased level of capability to both organisations in the provision of corporate services.

2. There is no proposal to amalgamate IBA and the ILC. Under the proposed model for the sharing of corporate services, the operation of the respective Boards will remain separate, as will program delivery functions. ILC information management practices, including protection of commercial in-confidence information, will be maintained. Legal advice in regards to this aspect of operations has not been sought as no amalgamation is being considered.
3. The ILC is not aware of any proposal for legislative change for an amalgamation with IBA. The proposed model for sharing common corporate services functions is possible within current legislation.
4. IBA and ILC offices in Perth, Adelaide and Canberra will be co-located with one-off costs of approximately \$108,000, \$12,000 and \$20,000 respectively. Current leases are expiring and as a result no penalties are expected.
5. No, the Acting CEO of IBA does not attend ILC Board meetings as a matter of course. At the invitation of the ILC Board, the Acting CEO of IBA attended the ILC Board meeting of 24 August 2016 to give a presentation on IBA; and 19 October 2016 to co-present the session on the proposed shared corporate services unit. He was only present for those items.
6. Yes.
7. No.