

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Committee Inquiries Question on Notice

Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia

Inquiry into Northern Australia Workforce Development

IQ23-000086

Division/Agency: DIV - Partnerships and Projects

Hansard Reference: Spoken, Page No. 58 (31 March 2023)

Topic: Ministerial council does sit under Northern Australia

Ms Marion Scrymgour MP asked:

CHAIR: Mr Mackay or Mr Roper, previously under the former government—and I think it's maintained through this government—there was a ministerial council. If the council is still in operation, do you have a list of who is on that council, and are those representatives from across northern Australia?

Mr Mackay: Is that the ministerial forum?

CHAIR: No. There's a ministerial forum which ministers sit on, but I think there was a ministerial council that was made up of land council representatives and a number of others. Was it under this one? I'm sure it was under Northern Australia.

Mr Mackay: Thanks, Chair. I might ask Ms Lee to see if we've got anything for you.

Alternatively, I'm very happy to take the substance of that question on notice, but we'll just check with Ms Lee first.

Ms Lee: I'm not familiar with the term you are using. There were a number of advisory groups, including the advisory group for northern Australia, but its membership does not reflect what you're talking about, so I'm very happy to take that on notice and see what used to exist.

CHAIR: Thank you; that would be good.

Answer:

The Northern Australia Advisory Council was established in 2017 to provide the then Minister for Resources and Northern Australia with information and advice on a range of Northern Australia issues. The council was chaired by the Minister and up to seven members were appointed as individuals on the basis of their personal expertise and experience. The council lapsed in 2019.