

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2010-11 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 255

Topic: Housing on Palm Island

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

When the Labor Government came to power in 2007 there was waiting for them a war chest of \$762 million dollars for Aboriginal housing. The Coalition's Minister for Aboriginal and Islander Affairs, Mal Brough, had released a plan for an estate of 46 houses on Palm Island. As of October 2010 not one of these houses has been built.

Can the Department provide any and all information as to why they still haven't been built, almost 4 years later?

Answer:

The Palm Island Agreement, which was signed in October 2007, acknowledged a lack of buildable land on the island and allowed for the construction of a 40 lot housing subdivision and up to 20 houses.

An Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) is under negotiation between the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council and the traditional owners. Once the ILUA has been signed and registered, development of the subdivision, and then house construction, can commence.