

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2014-15

Finance Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance

Outcome/Program: 2/2.2

Topic: Kenbi Land Claim

Senator: Wong

Question reference number: F93

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 10 April 2015

Number of pages: 2

Question:

1. The measure description in the 2014-15 MYEFO relating to Finance receiving \$31.5 million to fund the remediation of land on the Cox Peninsula states the funding was offset against a provision in the contingency reserve – can the Department advise what the provision in the contingency reserve was?
2. Can the Department provide an update of the work being done in relation to the Kenbi Land Claim? What will the \$31.5 million be used for? Can the Department provide specific details of the remediation of contaminated land and waste management?

Answer:

1. The Contingency Reserve is an allowance, included in aggregate expenses, principally to reflect anticipated events that cannot be assigned to individual programs in the preparation for the Australian Government budget (page 6-46 *Budget Strategy and Outlook Budget Paper No. 1 2014-15*).
2. Questions regarding progress of the Kenbi Land Claim should be referred to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

In November 2013, the Department of Finance (Finance) finalised a Detailed Business Case (DBC) that investigated options for contamination remediation and waste management on the Cox Peninsula.

The recommended option from the DBC is that contaminated material from Sections 32, 34 and 41 of the Cox Peninsula be disposed of in an engineered containment cell within the existing industrial compound on Section 34, and non-contaminated material to be recycled at an off-site facility where appropriate.

Following Government consideration of the recommendation from the DBC, \$31.5 million was approved for Finance to undertake the Cox Peninsula Remediation Project.

The Project was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC) on 3 December 2014. Finance is currently preparing for a site visit and public hearing by the PWC to be held in Darwin on 22 April 2015. As required under the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, the PWC will report to Parliament as to whether or not it is expedient that the works occur.