

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates Hearing 25-29 May 2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Tiwi Land Council

Outcome/Program: Outcome 2: Indigenous

Topic: Investigation ordered by Minister Greg Hunt

Senator: Senator Nova Peris OAM

Question reference number: 138

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 10 July 2015

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Federal Environment Minister Greg Hunt ordered an investigation of the new facilities at Port Melville.

Was the Tiwi Land Council briefed on this investigation – did the traditional land owners have any role in providing information to the Federal Department of the Environment.

Answer:

On 12/5/2015 the Federal Environment Minister Greg Hunt advised the Chairman of the Tiwi Land Council of his decision that the expansion of the port to operate as a marine supply base be investigated as a matter of priority by his Department. On 10/5/2015 the Chairman of the Tiwi Land Council advised Minister Hunt of Tiwi's long term aspiration to achieve self-funded land and sea management as a sustainable pathway to the management and protection of the Tiwi unique cultural and environmental values, which are of prime importance to Tiwi. He also advised of the importance of the Port Melville woodchip export facility to the Tiwi determination to develop jobs and provide income for the people. On 25/5/15 the Chairman of the Tiwi Land Council wrote to Minister Hunt supporting his Department working with EOLHT to assess potential impacts of future operations.