

**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:** Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

**Senator:** Senator Cory Bernardi

**Question reference number:** 192

**Type of question:** FPA Friday 29 May 2015, page 13

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

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

**CHAIR:** But you follow established corporate governance principles about declarations of conflicts of interest, and individuals disqualify themselves from appropriate discussions?

**Mr Clancy:** Our members do the pecuniary interest register thing. Chairman just reminded me that, if there is a conflict of interest, sometimes the member will leave the room while we are discussing something.

**CHAIR:** Which is appropriate.

**Senator Scullion:** Could I just say, if it assists, Chair, I am aware of the arrangements in the Tiwi Islands, but I can say that they are consistent with arrangements and declarations. For example, the CEO of the Central Land Council, Mr David Ross, is on Centrecorp, a significant investment arm of—as long as there is a declaration, I understand that they have a declaration process. And perhaps, without verballing you, Senator, you are asking, 'Do you have that thing in place?' Perhaps you could provide those processes on notice. But I am aware that, across all of the land councils, there are mechanisms. Most of the land councils actually have those, because the leadership is also involved in other business arms after they have leased this out. They are also traditional owners, and there are conflict of interest processes that I know well from the other land councils.

**Answer:**

Our 10 Executive members have recently undertaken corporate governance training – *Caring for Company: Looking After Tiwi Business* - delivered by KMPG, with recognition by Melbourne University.

The Australia Federal Police delivered, in the period June 2014 to September 2014, a risk management service in conjunction with the executive committee, with the development and alignment of policy and procedures of the Land Council, so as to conform to the requirements of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

Procedures and conduct of meetings pertaining to members of the Tiwi Land Council and its executive require adherence to the Land Council's code of conduct. Specifically set out at page 3 of the code of conduct is, Conflict of interest, accountability and disclosure, requiring that members, management and staff will always ensure that there is no conflict of interest between their own personal interests and those interest and activities of the Tiwi Land Council.

Furthermore, the principles of full disclosure of any and all financial interests has seen the creation of a register of pecuniary interests.