

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: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet
Topic: Whitepaper on Northern Australia

Senator: Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

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Question:

Senator McLUCAS: Was the facility a recommendation of the advisory group?

Mr McDonald: That advice does talk about infrastructure as an issue. The particular measure—I would have to take that on notice and go back through the advice.

Answer:

The Northern Australia Advisory Group recommendation most relevant to the infrastructure facility is:

- 2.1 The Government, in collaboration with the northern jurisdictions, should put in place mechanisms by which strategic ‘game-changing’ and ‘nation building’ infrastructure investments in the north can be identified and funded by the public and private sector, including examining ways to better assess the infrastructure needs in the north. There is a place for Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) in developing the north. Further joint Commonwealth-State funding models in infrastructure development are essential where government investment is required to de-risk commercial projects. Governments can also act as a catalyst for private sector investment.