

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

SENATE ESTIMATES SESSION

Supplementary Budget Estimates 18-22 November 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Township Leasing

Senator: Senator Nova Peris

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Question:

How many requests for information have been received by traditional owners and communities interested in 19A lease?

Answer: Requests for information by Traditional Owners interested in section 19A leases under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Land Rights Act) have resulted in township leases being executed over six communities in the Northern Territory. These communities are Wurrumiyanga, Milikapiti and Wurankuwu in the Tiwi Land Council region and Angurugu, Umbakumba and Milyakburra in the Anindilyakwa Land Council Region.

A request for information on a section 19A lease was received from interested Traditional Owners of Pirlangimpi, in the Tiwi Land Council region. Negotiations for a township lease at Pirlangimpi commenced under the previous Government.

In 2011, the Executive Director of Township Leasing conducted information sessions on township leasing in eight communities in the Northern Land Council region in the Northern Territory. Traditional Owners of one community, Gunbalanya, formally requested further information.

At the request of Traditional Owners of Gunbalanya and Yirrkala, the Australian Government has made formal arrangements to negotiate a lease under section 19A for those two communities.