

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Question on notice

17 AUG 2011

Tuesday, 21 June 2011

4234. Hon Robin Chapple to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Lands.

I refer to future management of the Ningaloo coastline and the proposed conservation strip approximately two kilometres wide from the Ningaloo Pastoral Lease, Cardabia Pastoral Lease, Warroora Pastoral Lease and Gnaraloo Pastoral Lease, and the nomination for World heritage that covers a coastal strip extending from North West Cape about 260 kilometres south-south-west to Red Bluff, and the adjacent marine areas, reefs and islands, and ask -

(1) Is the Minister or his department having any negotiation with the various pastoral lessees on the Ningaloo coast with a view to securing a mutually agreeable boundary between their stations and the coast?

(2) If yes to (1), how many times has the Minister or relevant officers met with either the pastoral lessees or their representatives?

(3) If yes to (1), can the Minister itemise these meetings?

(4) If no to (2) or (3), why not?

(5) Is the Minister's preferred outcome that the two kilometre strip be vested with the Department of Environment and Conservation?

(6) If no to (5), what is the Minister's preferred outcome and why?

(7) Has the Minister or his department commenced discussion with the relevant pastoralists on a lesser width being allocated to the conservation and recreation zone?

(8) If yes to (7), what tenure, width and conditions are being considered for this conservation zone?

(9) Will the impact of any new policies for a lesser coastal strip width compromise the Ningaloo Coast Regional Strategy 2004?

(10) If yes to (9), what will they be?

(11) If no to (9), why will there be no impact?

(12) If there are any changes proposed for a lesser width than those previously announced in a formal planning document, will they be subject to a public consultation process?

(13) Are any proposals being considered to grant freehold tenure over any of the

areas identified for exclusion from pastoral leases?

(14) Are considerations being given to expanding existing tourist facilities currently on leasehold pastoral lands?

(15) If yes to (14), who will receive funds from camping and public access in these areas?

(16) If yes to (14), what arrangements will be made to fund and maintain public access roads to these areas?

(17) If yes to (14), what tenure arrangements are under consideration for these areas?

(18) What options regarding the Department of Environment and Conservation's management of conservation areas along the coast are being discussed with the Minister for Environment?

(19) Is the Minister or his department having any negotiations with the Department of Environment and Conservation over the conservation boundary between their stations and the coast?

(20) If yes to (16), how many times has the Minister or relevant officers met with the Department of Environment and Conservation?

(21) If yes to (16.) can the Minister itemise these meetings?

(22) If no to (17) or (18), why not?

(23) Is the Minister aware that the Ningaloo World Heritage Nomination consistently refers to the Government's 'proposed conservation and recreation area' and the intention to create reserves on the coastal strip, particularly at page 156, and Endnote 3 at page 166?

(24) Does the Minister support the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Nomination?

(25) Does the Minister's preferred option for the Coastal strip require pastoralists to have responsibility for some or all of the management of World Heritage nominated areas?

(26) If yes to (25), what, if any, binding requirements would be in place to ensure appropriate management of the conservation values and recreational public access in the proposed world heritage areas?

Answer

(1) Yes.

(2) Numerous occasions before November 2010.

(3) Most recent being the following:

(i) 30 November 2010. Minister met with pastoralists from Boolathana, Quobba, Gnarloo, Warroora and Ningaloo stations to inform them that the original two kilometre exclusion was being revised and they would be consulted as part of the process.

(ii) 1-4 February 2011: Site visit by Department of Regional Development and Lands (RDL) staff to Ningaloo Coast pastoralists to discuss review of exclusion. RDL staff documented on-ground activities in proposed exclusion area, including camping/tourism. Pastoralists provided their expectations of the revised exclusion.

(4) Not applicable.

(5) No.

(6) A review of the original two kilometre strip was agreed to by the Minister for Environment, the Minister for Planning and the Minister for Lands in October 2010, with a view to a reduced excision. The preferred outcome is a joint management model between the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), pastoralists and Traditional Owners.

(7) Yes.

(8) Yet to be determined.

(9) The review of the two kilometre exclusion is being carried out in consultation with the Department of Planning.

(10) Not applicable.

(11) See response to (9).

(12) Yet to be determined.

(13) Yet to be determined.

(14) This is yet to be determined. RDL has been in discussion with Tourism WA in regards to viability of increased tourism in the area.

(15) The operators.

(16) Public access roads will be maintained by those responsible for the land.

(17) Yet to be determined.

(18) Yet to be determined. The Minister has agreed to high level principles regarding conservation in the October 2010 agreement with the Minister for Environment.

(19) Yes.

(20) Question should read if yes to (19). RDL has met with representatives from DEC on numerous occasions, the most recent being three times, listed below at (21). The Minister has met with the former Minister for Environment and representatives from DEC on three occasions and these dates are listed below at (21).

(21) RDL meetings with DEC

(i) 25/02/2009.

(ii) 17/05/2011.

(iii) 02/06/2011.

Minister's meetings with the former Minister for Environment and representatives from DEC

(i) 25/02/2009.

(ii) 29/10/2009.

(iii) 28/09/2010.

(22) Not applicable.

(23) Yes.

(24) Yes. And additionally the Minister supports the Government's position on the UNESCO World Heritage committee listing of Ningaloo as a World Heritage site.

(25) Yes, in conjunction with DEC and Traditional Owners.

(26) Yet to be determined.