

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

062

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE (Of which some notice has been given)

Thursday, 8 March 2012

Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs.

I refer to the Buru Energy Limited (Buru) Canning Superbasin exploration program and their operations at Ungani, Valhalla and Yulleroo and ask:

- (1) Has Buru reported the existence of Aboriginal heritage sites in these areas to Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA)?
 - (2) Is DIA aware of Aboriginal heritage sites in these areas?
 - (3) Did DIA advise Buru of the need for Indigenous site clearances at the locations of Ungani, Valhalla and Yulleroo?
 - (4) If yes to (3) when were these site clearances carried out and were applications to disturb (s18) required under the Aboriginal Heritage Act?
 - (5) Will the Minister ensure that this matter is now considered by the DIA Heritage Compliance Team?
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I thank the Hon. Member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Buru has not reported any site information to the Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA).
- (2) DIA has no record of any sites in the area. The Kimberley Land Council (KLC) indicated to the DIA and to Buru that sites exist in this area.
- (3) DIA has advised Buru that the DIA holds no records of sites in the area, and that the KLC has indicated Aboriginal sites exist in the area. The DIA has encouraged both Buru and KLC to meet to resolve this matter.
- (4) DIA has not been provided with copies of any surveys, or received a section 18 Notice.

(5) The DIA has not received reports of damage to any sites within this area. If damage to sites has occurred, the matter will be investigated by DIA.



Minister for Indigenous Affairs