

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**  
**Question on notice**

- 2 MAY 2012

**Thursday, 8 March 2012**

5266. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment.

I refer to the issue of damage to vegetation and sand dunes at James Price Point by Woodside, and ask -

- (1) Has the Department of Environment and Conservation conducted an investigation into reports of damage to sand dunes and associated vegetation near James Price Point by Woodside or its contractors?
- (2) If yes to (1), when did the investigation begin and when did it end?
- (3) If yes to (1), what did the department investigate and what were the findings of the investigation?
- (4) Did the department find that there was any damage to the dune system at James Price Point?
- (5) Did the department find that there were established access tracks into and across the dune system?
- (6) If yes to (5), who created the access tracks and when were they established?
- (7) Does the department have a map of the established tracks in the dunes south of James Price Point?
- (8) If yes to (7), will the department publish the map?
- (9) If yes to (4), what action did the department take?
- (10) Is there a map of the access tracks and will the department table them?

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**Answer**

- (1) Yes
- (2) 16 to 19 May 2011
- (3) The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) investigated complaints from members of the public that damage to vegetation had occurred when Woodside Energy

Ltd contractors used a vehicle to access sites between Quandong Point and James Price Point in May 2011. The investigation found evidence of the ongoing use of pre-existing tracks. There was insufficient evidence to prove beyond reasonable doubt that Woodside Energy Ltd's staff had, in isolation of all other track users, caused unauthorised clearing of native vegetation.

- (4) Yes
- (5) Yes
- (6) Unknown
- (7) No
- (8) Not applicable
- (9) None. The available evidence indicated that the vehicle referred to was driven on what appeared to be pre-existing tracks of various ages that were created by persons unknown. The impact caused in this instance, in isolation, is no different to the impact caused by previous track users.
- (10) DEC is unaware of the existence of a map showing access tracks in the James Price Point area.

