

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question on notice

14 AUG 2012

Wednesday, 13 June 2012

5708. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs.

I refer to the answers to a question without notice asked of the Minister of Mines answered on 12 June 2012 and an extract from Tabled paper 4583 that accompanied that answer --

'Recommendation 4: DIA should ensure that mining operators comply with conditions under Section 18 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972. This will include conducting adequate monitoring and inspections.

The Department of Indigenous Affairs is leading the response to this recommendation.'

and I ask --

(1) Has the Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA) concluded its response to the Auditor General's Recommendation 4?

(2) If no to (1), why not?

(3) If yes to (1), will the Minister table that response?

(4) If no to (1), when is the DIA expected to respond to the Auditor General's Recommendation 4?

Answer

(1) Yes

(2) N/A

(3) DIA has recognised the need and commenced a process of improvement prior to the Auditor General's report with the establishment of a Compliance Unit in July 2010. There is no documentary response to table.

(4) DIA welcomed some useful suggestions from the Auditor General to further improve its processes and has incorporated those suggestions into its processes, this includes the commencement of an audit program to ensure compliance with mining exploration activities.

There will be an ongoing improvement to the process and this includes the increased compliance capacity in each of the seven DIA regional offices, the establishment of the Audit program and the continued focus on site impact avoidance through the provision of heritage information to mining proponents and the engagement of Aboriginal people with heritage knowledge working collaboratively with industry on the protection of sites.



Minister for Indigenous Affairs