

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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

Tuesday, 11 September 2012

Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs.

On 26 July 2011, heritage officers of the Department of Indigenous Affairs ("DIA") lodged a site recording in relation to the site DIA 30274.

In relation to this, I ask:

1. Can the Minister confirm that the DIA heritage officers who lodged the site recording concluded that DIA 30274 was a site within the meaning of section 5 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972?
2. Can the Minister confirm that Woodside Energy Ltd has been undertaking ground clearing works and drilling within the boundaries of DIA 30274?
3. Has Woodside Energy Ltd held any authorisation to undertake this ground clearing works and drilling under section 18 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act?

I thank the Hon. Member for some notice of this question.

1. Determination of whether a place meets the requirements of section 5 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* is the responsibility of the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee (ACMC) and the Minister for Indigenous Affairs. The role of DIA heritage officers is to provide a range of advisory information to the ACMC to assist them with the decision making process. The AHA does not provide heritage officers with authority to determine or conclude that places are sites under section 5.
2. Yes, Woodside Energy Limited (Woodside) has been undertaking activities within the boundary of DIA 30274, which is not a registered site. I am advised that Woodside has avoided registered sites in the area.
3. Woodside has lodged an application under section 18. The ACMC has not yet considered the application.



Minister for Indigenous Affairs