

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question on notice

15 OCT 2013

Tuesday, 10 September 2013

276. Hon Robin Chappie to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment.

With regard to question on notice No. 5950 where the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment said "The Government is committed to pursuing the protection of the conservation and heritage values of the area. Formal reservation will require further consultation and approval within government, and Indigenous land use agreement(s) to be reached with registered native title parties.", I ask:

- (a) has the Government undertaken consultation within government agencies or Ministers regarding the protection of the conservation and heritage values of the area recommended by the Waterbank Coordinating Committee;
- (b) if no to (a), why not;
- (c) if no to (a), when will the Government begin this work;
- (d) is it correct that the Waterbank Coordinating Committee recommended the area to become a reserve for conservation and Aboriginal heritage with opportunities for nature-based tourism; and
- (e) if yes to (d), when does the Minister propose to implement those recommendations?

Answer

The Minister for Environment has provided the following response.

- (a) Yes. The recommendations of the Waterbank Coordinating Committee have been considered in the course of consultations within government, with external stakeholders, and with traditional owners on the development of the draft Dampier Peninsula Planning Strategy and the Shire of Broome's draft Planning Strategy. The draft Dampier Peninsula Planning Strategy has not yet been released for public comment, but has been endorsed by the Statutory Planning Committee under delegated authority of the Western Australian Planning Commission. The draft Dampier Peninsula Planning Strategy was informed by advice from a Traditional Owner Steering Committee, which had representatives of traditional owner groups of the Dampier Peninsula and was facilitated by the Kimberley Land Council. Consultations also took place through the Kimberley Regional Planning Committee, which includes representatives from Kimberley Land Council, traditional owners, local shires, and the departments of Parks and Wildlife, Planning, Water, Mines and Petroleum and Regional Development, among others.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Not applicable.



- (d) Yes, approximately 30 per cent of the former Waterbank Station pastoral lease (approximately 93 000 hectares from a total area of 315 512 hectares) was recommended by the Waterbank Coordinating Committee to become a reserve for conservation and Aboriginal heritage with opportunities for nature-based tourism.
- (e) The timing for the implementation of these recommendations is dependent on a range of factors, including native title parties agreeing to the creation of such a reserve through Indigenous Land Use Agreements, the finalisation of the Dampier Peninsula Planning Strategy, and government approvals.