

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question on notice

19 NOV 2013

Tuesday, 15 October 2013

354. Hon Robin Chappie to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

With regard to the Nyoongar Tent Embassy set up at the State-listed Aboriginal Heritage Site (ID3589) on Heirisson Island in February-March 2012, I ask:

- (a) what was the total Western Australian Police expenditure on surveillance of people camping on the island, in accordance with the law, in order to protect a registered Aboriginal Heritage site;
- (b) what was to total Western Australian Police expenditure on raiding and removing these same people;
- (c) how many of the Aboriginal people gathered at this Aboriginal Heritage site were arrested or prosecuted for illegal camping;
- (d) how many Aboriginal people were arrested or prosecuted on other charges;
- (e) which of these charges were upheld by the courts and what was the outcome; and
- (f) what actions did the Department of Aboriginal Affairs take to ascertain the status and legitimacy under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* of the Aboriginal people gathered at the Tent Embassy and to advise the Western Australian Police of the same?

Answer

(a) – (e) Answer will be forthcoming from the Attorney General representing the Minister for Police

(f) No. There is no provision within the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*. to investigate the legitimacy of people who were gathered at the Tent Embassy. The Department of Aboriginal Affairs did not receive a request to provide any advice to the Western Australian Police on any aspects of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*.



Minister for Aboriginal Affairs