

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

C072

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

Thursday, 20 February 2014

Hon Robin Chapple to the Leader of the House representing the Premier.

In relation to the Noongar Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) that has been negotiated between the Noongar Nation and the state Government

I ask:

- (1) How many Noongar adults are there in Western Australia?
 - (2) How many Noongar adults could vote on the ILUA?
 - (3) Which agency will conduct the vote?
 - (4) If the answers to (1) and (2) are not the same, why not?
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I thank the Hon. Member for some notice of this question.

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet advises:

- (1) It is estimated that there are between 30,000 and 40,000 people in Western Australia that can claim Noongar ancestry. It is assumed that approximately half of those people are of adult age.
- (2) The number of people who will vote on the six Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) that form the basis of the South West Settlement will depend on how many Noongar people choose to participate in the formal ILUA authorisation meetings conducted by the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council. The only people eligible to authorise the ILUAs under the *Native Title Act 1993* are the persons holding or who may hold native title in relation to land or waters covered by the six claim areas. The population of the six different claim groups varies considerably.
- (3) The authorisation meetings will be conducted by the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council. The State Government is not involved as this is a matter for Aboriginal decision-making.
- (4) The answers to (1) and (2) vary because the number of people who will vote depends on how many eligible Noongar adults participate in the formal ILUA authorisation process. The *Native Title Act 1993* does not prescribe how decisions are to be made by the members of a native title group.

