

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

C1167

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

Tuesday, 13 October 2015

Hon Robin Chappie to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

I refer to the assessment of Lake Yindarlgooda, ID 30602, as 'Stored Date/Not a Site' by the Aboriginal Cultural Materials Committee on 11 September 2013, and ask:

1. Why was no anthropologist present at this meeting given ID 30602 is a mythological dreaming site and hence, anthropologically very significant?
 2. Was external expert anthropological advice in relation to the assessment of ID 30602?
 3. If yes to (2), will the Minister table this advice?
 4. If no to (3), why not?
 5. If no to (1) - (4), and given the site's informant was unaware ID 30602 had been deregistered, can the Minister elaborate on his understanding of procedural fairness with relation to this site?
-

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

1. The position of Specialist Anthropologist on the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee was vacant. The Department of Aboriginal Affairs has undertaken several extensive, nationwide recruitment processes in an effort to engage a Specialist Anthropologist. The search for a Specialist Anthropologist is ongoing. The Department of Aboriginal Affairs officers with anthropological and archaeological expertise currently provide written advice to the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee and have done so since the Department assumed administration of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* in 1994.

2. The expert anthropological information was compiled by Dr Bill Kruse, Mr Bradley Jennings on behalf of the Goldfields Land and Sea Council, and Mr Daniel De Gand for Crest Minerals Pty Ltd. This information was considered by the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee in making its assessment.

3. No.

4. The information relating to DAA 30602 is restricted due to gender restricted and culturally sensitive material.

5. The initial assessment of DAA 30602 was provided on 21 November 2012 to the Goldfields Land and Sea Council who represent the site informants. Feedback from this process was incorporated into the final assessment which was presented to the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee. It is long standing practice that the Department of Aboriginal Affairs updates the Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System on the Department of Aboriginal Affairs website so stakeholders and the general public are aware of all changes to the status of heritage places.



Minister for Aboriginal Affairs