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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question Without Notice

Tuesday, 9 June 2020

C556. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

I refer to the recent deplorable destruction of Indigenous heritage at Juukan Gorge, and to the SBS article '*Fears of another Juukan Gorge as concerns raised over Pilbara rock caves near FMG mine*', and I ask:

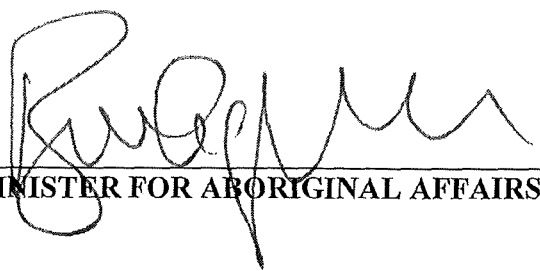
1. Given what has happened to the caves *Brock-20* and *Brock-21* at Juukan Gorge, will the Minister take personal responsibility for the caves referred to in the article?
2. Will the Minister prevent the future destruction of the caves?
3. Given that former Registrar, Dr Kathryn Przywolnik, has stated that the Minister could have stopped the destruction of *Brock-20* and *Brock-21*, why did he not do so?

Answer

(1)-(3) The Minister did not approve the destruction of the Juukan caves, was not aware of the approval to destroy the caves and was not asked to intervene in their destruction.

As the Member is aware, Rio Tinto had a valid section 18 Consent issued for development of Pit One at the Brockman 4 mine. The Minister is not aware of the statement by the former Registrar, but as the Member well knows, neither the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs nor the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee (ACMC) can review or revoke a section 18 Consent once it has been issued.

In considering whether to grant consent to a section 18 Notice that may impact an Aboriginal heritage site, the Minister takes into consideration the recommendation of the (ACMC) and the general interests of the community.



MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

