

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question Without Notice

Tuesday, 16 June 2020

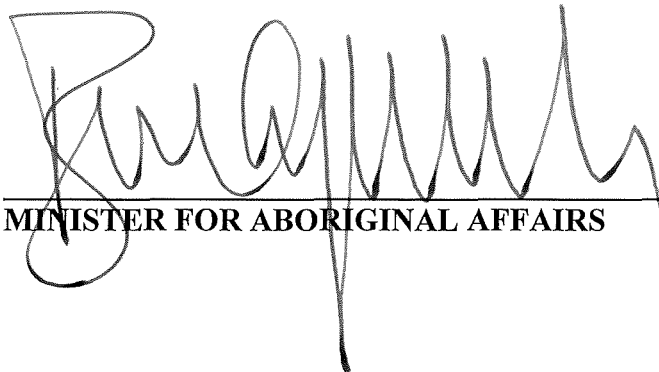
C615. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

I refer to the article 'BHP holds fire on destruction of 40 ancient Aboriginal heritage sites as part of South Flank development in Pilbara despite approval', referring to site No. 25664, published in The West Australian, on 11 June, and I ask:

1. Given that BHP have themselves identified the issues with their current §18 approvals at South Flank, have BHP remitted this approval back to the Department?
2. If yes to (1), when was this done and when does it come into effect?
3. If no to (1), does the existing §18 approval, and its prescriptions, remain in place?
4. If yes to (3), does the §18 approval have an expiry or end date?
5. Will the Minister suggest any ways in which the Government or its Departments can reinforce and facilitate BHPs commitment to maintain protection of site No. 25664 in its entirety?

Answer

(1)-(5) As the member is aware, a section 18 Consent cannot be reviewed or revoked by the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee or the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. Section 18 Consents are generally for the life of the project. The Minister has written to BHP urging it consider the significance of site No. 25664, to engage closely with the Banjima people and to avoid, where possible, destruction of sites important to them.



MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

