

23/09/2020

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**  
**Question Without Notice**

**Wednesday, 23 September 2020**

**C1012. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs**

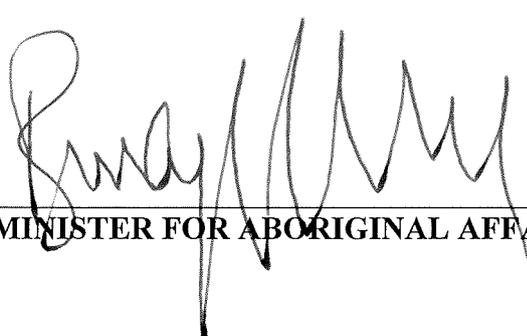
I refer to the ABC article 'Juukan Gorge inquiry hears of doubts over WA Government's approval of Rio Tinto application', dated 21-09-2020, specifically those parts relating to the Yinhawangka group, and I ask:

1. Is the Minister aware that Rio Tinto plans to destroy 124 of 327 heritage sites with its Western Range Expansion project in the Hammersley Range?
2. When was the Section-18 approval granted for this expansion?
3. Will the Minister please table the minutes of the ACMC associated with the S.18 decision by the ACMC
4. Is the Minister aware of Yinhawangka Aboriginal Corporation "rely[ing] on Rio's goodwill" in relation to protecting these sites?
5. Will the Minister take personal responsibility for any cultural or heritage destruction at the site, considering permission has been granted?

---

**Answer**

(1)-(5) The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs has informed me that the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage is not able to identify the exact section 18 notice based on the details given in the question, and has requested clarification so that a response can be provided.

  
**MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS**

