

PERTH URBAN RAIL DEVELOPMENT, ABORIGINAL SITES

945. Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:

- (1) Have there been any discussions or negotiations with Aboriginal people about registered heritage sites within land and waters affected by the Perth urban rail development?
- (2) If yes, what has been the nature of those discussions?
- (3) Has any compensation for disturbance of registered heritage sites been offered or requested?
- (4) If yes -
 - (a) has any financial compensation been agreed to; and
 - (b) if so, what amounts?
- (5) Has discussion taken place with the commonwealth minister responsible for Aboriginal heritage about heritage issues within land and waters affected by the Perth urban rail development?

Hon GRAHAM GIFFARD replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. The answer provided is in the following terms -

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Discussions and interactions with Aboriginal people and groups have included site meetings; presentations; and the preparation of consolidated reports that summarise the separate consultations that have been undertaken for the Perth station yard area, the Esplanade station area and the Narrows Bridge interchange area. The reports also incorporate previous work undertaken by Main Roads WA in respect of the Mount Henry area. In discussions, agreement has been reached on the establishment of future quarterly meetings with representatives from the relevant Aboriginal groups.

A number of requests have been made by Aboriginal groups and people throughout the consultation process. Some of the issues raised in discussions or through requests include -

 - that the Swan River environment is not to be damaged;
 - that there be a mechanism for the employment of Aboriginal people during construction works;
 - that Aboriginal monitors be situated on construction sites during excavation works;
 - that the Esplanade station incorporate Aboriginal designs or artwork into the station;
 - that an Aboriginal reference group be established for the project; and
 - that one of the major stations be named after a local Aboriginal historical identity.
- (3) No. Applications under section 18 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 have been submitted or are in the process of being submitted to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs. There are no compensation provisions in this Act, and the minister is not aware of any precedent for compensation for the disturbance of registered heritage sites. The Minister for Indigenous Affairs may approve the section 18 applications with conditions. These conditions, and any other requirements of the Aboriginal Heritage Act, will be adhered to.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) No. There is no requirement to consult with the commonwealth minister on this matter. As outlined above, applications under section 18 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 have been submitted or are in the process of being submitted to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs.