

Division 51: Land Administration -

Question: Mr Sweetman, referring to the reference to the provision by the Department of Land Administration ("DOLA") of advice on Native Title issues at page 849, asked the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure how many native title claims the Department was dealing with.

Answer: DOLA's Native Title Unit is presently processing 155 proposals which involve the intention to compulsory acquire native title rights under various future act provisions of the Native Title Act. More specifically, the proposals comprise:

- 12 infrastructure proposals (eg, pipelines, heavy industry) which provide native title claimants the right to object, then to be consulted, and then for their objection to be heard if the objection is not withdrawn under Section 24MD(6B).
- 64 proposals within town sites throughout WA which provide the same rights to claimants as for Section 24MD(6B) above.
- 44 proposals over unallocated Crown land and Crown reserves where a third party grant is involved and which provides claimants the right to negotiate under Subdivision P of the Native Title Act.
- 35 Public works proposals which provide claimants the same procedural rights as if they held freehold title (ie. the right to object and to have the objection considered by the Minister for Lands) under Section 24MD(6A).

In addition, DOLA is presently processing 20 proposals which have complied with the various provisions for compulsory acquisitions as above, agreements have been reached and for which the formal compulsory acquisition (taking) is being arranged.

It should also be mentioned that there would be a number of proposals where DOLA has made approaches to claimants as a preliminary to initiating the compulsory acquisition process.

The Land Claims Mapping Unit maintains a current spatial record of all 111 claims registered with the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) and the 131 claims as lodged in the Federal Court.

Currently the unit is contracted by the Crown Solicitor's Office to prepare current and historical land tenure information for 18 native title claims. The unit has prepared the historical land tenure as directed by the court for 26 claims to date.