

YINDJIBARNDI NATIVE TITLE CLAIM GROUP MEETING

291. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the parliamentary secretary representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Has the Attorney General seen or been briefed on the widely circulated video of the much-publicised Yindjibarndi claim group meeting held on 16 March?
- (2) Is the Attorney General aware that proponents in a protracted native title negotiation with the Yindjibarndi were present at, and made submissions to, that meeting?
- (3) Does the Attorney General consider the proponent's behaviour was appropriate in the circumstances?
- (4) Are there any circumstances in which the state would oppose the registration of an Indigenous land use agreement in the Federal Court?
- (5) Does the Attorney General consider that the lawyer's behaviour warrants a complaint to the Legal Profession Complaints Committee?

Hon MICHAEL MISCHIN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The Attorney General is aware that the meeting took place.
- (2) The Attorney General notes that the Yindjibarndi native title claim group held a meeting of its members, and that other parties were present.
- (3) The Attorney General has no comment on the conduct of the meeting. The state would always encourage people in this sort of setting to conduct themselves in a reasonable and respectful manner, but the state has no influence over the conduct of private gatherings.
- (4) All ILUAs are lodged with the National Native Title Tribunal, which assesses whether there are valid grounds to register the ILUA, under terms defined in the commonwealth Native Title Act 1993. Objections to an ILUA being registered are limited to Indigenous people who claim to hold native title in relation to the land or water covered by the agreement. The NNTT must investigate all legitimate objections to an ILUA being registered. Under the act there is no scope for the state to object to an ILUA involving third parties and native title claimants. In most cases, the terms of the agreement are confidential.
- (5) The Attorney General has no comment on the behaviour of the people who attended the meeting.