

SOUTHERN FORESTS IRRIGATION SCHEME — ABORIGINAL HERITAGE SURVEY

**762. Hon DIANE EVERS to the Minister for Regional Development:**

I refer to the southern forests irrigation scheme.

- (1) Has an Aboriginal heritage survey been conducted on the areas proposed for the SFIS? If yes, will the minister please table the results; and, if no, why not?
- (2) Has the government consulted with the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council? If yes, what issues were raised and how is it proposed that these issues will be addressed; and, if no, why not?

**Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:**

I thank the member for the question.

- (1) Consultations with traditional knowledge holders are ongoing, with detailed surveys conducted over portions of the arterial pipeline route. Further surveys will be conducted following final engineering design. The project has met, and continues to meet, its obligations under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 and, more recently, its requirements under the south west native title settlement, including entering into a Noongar standard heritage agreement with the native title holders.
- (2) Yes. The issues raised were not of a critical nature and it is believed that they can be dealt with through the design, planning and implementation phases of the project.