

RIO TINTO — SECTION 18 APPLICATIONS

3222. Hon Matt Benson-Lidholm to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs

- (1) How many section 18 applications were submitted by Rio Tinto or any of its subsidiaries in 2009-10?
- (2) On how many occasions has the final decision by the Minister been different to the original recommendation of the Aboriginal Material Cultural Committee?
- (3) Do staff from the Minister's Office ever liaise with the Aboriginal Material Cultural Committee regarding section 18 applications?
- (4) Do staff from the Minister's Office ever liaise with the applicant regarding section 18 applications?
- (5) Which members of the Minister's staff are involved in the liaison referred to in (3) and (4), and what level are they?

Hon PETER COLLIER replied:

- (1) Three.
- (2) None.
- (3) In considering the recommendations of the ACMC and having regard to the general interest of the community in either granting consent with conditions if any, or declining consent to use land, the Minister and his staff liaise with a number of stakeholders, including the Department of Indigenous Affairs, the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee (ACMC), section 18 applicants and Aboriginal people who have an interest in a place or object to which the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 applies.
- (4) In supporting the Minister in their professional capacity, all staff from time to time may come into contact with those referred to.