

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE BILL 2021 — ABORIGINAL INSPECTORS

1172. Hon TJORN SIBMA to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:

My question is dated 8 December. I refer to the designation and/or appointment of Aboriginal inspectors under part 10 of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill 2021.

- (1) How will these Aboriginal inspectors be appointed and trained?
- (2) Which statutory authority will have oversight responsibility for the conduct of Aboriginal inspectors and how will the activities of these inspectors be recorded and reported?
- (3) What consultation was undertaken prior to proposing the sweeping powers at clause 234 concerning the power to stop and enter vehicles?

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. I provide the following response on behalf of the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, who is absent from the chamber on urgent parliamentary business.

- (1) The chief executive officer of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage will appoint and provide training for the Aboriginal inspectors.
- (2) The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage will have oversight responsibility for Aboriginal inspectors. It is anticipated that Aboriginal members of a local Aboriginal cultural heritage service or Aboriginal rangers may be appointed as Aboriginal inspectors.
- (3) Clause 234 was contained in the consultation draft of the bill that has been available to public since September 2020, with a total of 176 submissions received from a wide range of stakeholders, including Aboriginal organisations, industry, government, land users and heritage professionals. The inspection powers, including the power to stop and enter vehicles, are in line with state standards under other statutes, including the Criminal Investigation Act 2006, the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 and the Environmental Protection Act 1986.