

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT — EXISTING AGREEMENTS

434. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:

I refer to the minister's response to questions during budget estimates on the implementation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act, specifically with regard to existing agreements.

- (1) With less than two weeks before the act commences, can the minister advise what impact, if any, the new act will have on the operation of existing Indigenous land use agreements and standard heritage agreements?
- (2) Will project proponents with existing agreements need to stop work while new surveys are completed and agreements are reached?

Dr A.D. BUTI replied:

- (1)–(2) If prior approval had been granted under section 18, they will continue. If the approval was granted after the passage of the act in December 2021, it is a five-year period. If it was prior to that, it is a 10-year period. Each individual Indigenous land use agreement would depend on the specific circumstances. Those ILUAs were agreed to by Aboriginal people and others, and that will continue to happen under the new act. The new act is all about facilitating communication and dialogue between users, landowners and Aboriginal groups.