

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT — REGULATIONS

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

I refer to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act.

- (1) Noting that no funds have been allocated for the preparation of readiness reports and that the department's own ICT system to manage the new requirements of the act is not yet ready for launch, is the commencement date for the act still expected to be 1 July 2023, as the minister confirmed last week?
- (2) On what date will consultation be complete and the regulations released to allow ample time for industry and stakeholder groups to be prepared for 1 July?

Dr A.D. BUTI replied:

- (1) The answer to the member's first question has not changed since last week—yes, 1 July 2023.
- (2) With regard to consultation, it continues and it will continue up until the day of the operation of the act and probably even beyond that. The department has been in constant consultation for over two years and in intense consultation in the co-design of the regulations, something that the member's side would never have engaged in. Co-design would be something that the opposition would never have contemplated. We have contemplated that. We have spoken to the resources industry, the Western Australian Farmers Federation, the Pastoralists and Graziers Association and local government et cetera. The consultation has been extensive. If the member wants to write to my office, I will give her a list of all the people who have been consulted and the member will be very impressed. Do not worry about consultation. It continues and will even continue after the act commences on 1 July 2023.