



Government of Western Australia
Department of Aboriginal Affairs

PUBLIC

211013



ENQUIRIES : Diana Ting- Ph (08) 6551 8165

Ms Samantha Parsons
Committee Clerk
Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Ms Parsons

DEPARTMENT OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS 2013/14 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING - TRANSCRIPT OF EVIDENCE

Thank you for your correspondence dated 2 October 2013 regarding the Transcript of Evidence relating to the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations Agency Annual Report Hearings 2013/14 Budget Estimates Hearing held on 24 September 2013.

Please find enclosed the endorsed Transcript of Evidence for the following Department of Aboriginal Affairs staff members who were present at the Hearing:

- Mr Cliff Weeks, Director General;
- Mr Aaron Rayner, Chief Heritage Officer;
- Mr Jamie Strickland, Acting Executive Director, Community Development; and
- Mr Glen Kar, Acting Executive Director, Corporate Services.

Please also find enclosed a correction of factual information provided by Mr Rayner regarding State Solicitor's Office advice on the need for a specialist anthropologist on the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee (P 20).

Yours sincerely

Cliff Weeks
Director General

16 October 2013

Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE: I want to go back quickly to the last question I asked to clarify two points. Can I get a clarification from the heritage manager, Mr Aaron Rayner, when he said that it was his advice that there was no need for an anthropologist on the ACMC to be in attendance at that time? I just want to clarify that it is from his advice and not from legal advice.

Mr Rayner: We have had State Solicitor's advice on this matter. I think a basic reading of the section that I brought the member's attention to makes it quite clear that the committee can operate with a vacancy in its membership.

Correction:

Subsequent to the hearing, Mr Aaron Rayner, Chief Heritage Officer, made due search and enquiry for the State Solicitor's Office advice and found neither written nor a record of oral advice. It has been concluded that the advice received by Mr Rayner was given not by State Solicitor's Office but by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs's legal advisers.