

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT — IMPLEMENTATION

Notice of Motion

HON NEIL THOMSON (Mining and Pastoral) [10.07 am]: I give notice that at the next sitting of the house I will move —

That this house —

- (a) shares the extraordinary level of concern expressed by the community about how unprepared the state is for the implementation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act regulations, with a record number of signatures received on an electronic petition in a very short time frame;
- (b) notes the expression of anxiety and concern of landowners and the small and medium business sector, including pastoralists and graziers, farmers, and any contractors or individuals who might need to carry out ground-disturbing activity after 1 July 2023, regarding their ability to comply with the new regulations;
- (c) notes the deep concern that the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage's permit system will be operational only on 1 July, meaning applicants will need to cease work while they wait for approvals to be processed after 1 July 2023;
- (d) notes the concern that no local Aboriginal cultural heritage services are registered as yet, and the associated concerns expressed by traditional owners about the implementation of the new laws and challenges in establishing LACHS;
- (e) notes that many in the community, including landowners in the metropolitan area, have not been aware of the changes and their obligations under the new act, and this cohort is only now becoming aware of how the new laws might impact on them; and
- (f) calls on the Cook government to delay the promulgation of the regulations by at least six months to alleviate anxiety in the community, reduce the risk of business disruption, establish functioning and tested systems, ensure that LACHS are properly resourced and functioning, and provide better advice to all parties that are affected, including residential landowners who have blocks greater than 1 100 square metres.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Member, did you conclude the end of that motion?

Hon NEIL THOMSON: Yes. For the purpose of *Hansard*, President, would you like me to read that last section again?

The PRESIDENT: There is no need to; I am just ensuring that you finished.

Hon NEIL THOMSON: Yes, I had finished.

The PRESIDENT: Please take a seat.