

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT AND VOICE REFERENDUM

**761. Hon NICK GOIRAN to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:**

I refer to the Premier's answer on 20 June 2023 to my question without notice that revealed the Premier had received a range of briefings on all matters relevant to our state, including the government's implementation of the newly amended Aboriginal cultural heritage laws and the impact upon Western Australia of the proposed change to the Australian Constitution to establish an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

- (1) Since becoming Premier, has he discussed Western Australia's Aboriginal cultural heritage laws with the Prime Minister?
- (2) Is he aware that in February his health minister said that, in addition to supporting a change to the Australian Constitution, she was "certainly" in favour of creating a Voice to WA Parliament?
- (3) Will he give an unequivocal commitment not to introduce legislation to amend our state Constitution for the purpose of enshrining a Voice to WA Parliament?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The first time the Premier discussed Aboriginal cultural heritage laws with the Prime Minister was yesterday, Monday, 7 August. The Premier informed the Prime Minister of the government's intention to repeal Aboriginal cultural heritage laws and restore the original Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act of 1972 with simple and effective amendments to help prevent another incident such as the Juukan Gorge tragedy.
- (2)–(3) The WA government supports changing the Australian Constitution to establish an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to the federal Parliament. We are aligned with all Australian states and territories supporting a constitutionally enshrined national Voice.