

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT

610. Hon NEIL THOMSON to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:

I refer to the Aboriginal cultural heritage management code and flowchart 3 outlining the due diligence assessment for a tier 2 activity, published on the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage website, which requires proponents and landowners to assess whether Aboriginal cultural heritage exists on the site of their proposed works.

- (1) Is ACH defined to include all ACH listings on the directory?
- (2) Approximately how many ACH sites are listed, noting that in a recent 6PR radio interview, a department official indicated that there were about 30 000 sites?
- (3) Can ACH exist where a site is not listed?
- (4) Is there anywhere in Western Australia where ACH does not exist?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1) Yes. The definition of “Aboriginal cultural heritage” is in section 12 of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021. The new directory will include all the existing ACH information that the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage has on the register of Aboriginal sites, as well as all the places for which information has been lodged but which has not been formally assessed by the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee. New information on ACH will be able to be lodged via the new ICT system.
- (2) There are currently over 30 000 registered sites and lodged places listed.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) ACH needs to meet the definition set out in the act. The act and the definition of ACH recognise the living, historical and traditional nature of ACH. It is for Aboriginal people to determine where ACH does and does not exist.