

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT — REPEAL

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

I refer to proposed changes to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act.

- (1) How will the government deal with the \$8 million of predicted higher fees and charges for the Department of Planning and Heritage associated with the ACH act, reflecting cost recovery for local Aboriginal cultural heritage services?
- (2) Will LACHS be reimbursed for any expenses incurred, which cannot be realised under the new regime?
- (3) Will the state reimburse land owners and proponents for any expenses incurred over the failed laws?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1) The cost recovery mechanism that was established under the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 will not be continued with the repeal of that act.
- (2) LACHS will not continue; instead support will be provided to existing native title groups, including the relevant prescribed body corporate, registered claimants or native title representative bodies, to improve capacity.
- (3) Any expenses incurred relate to the existing legislative process established by the ACH act, which is currently law. It will be for individual proponents to determine whether they wish to proceed with any applications under the ACH act or wait for the amended Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 to be passed.