

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT

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

I refer to the implementation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act.

- (1) What date will the act be promulgated?
- (2) Is the whole state now covered by an identifiable and established local Aboriginal cultural heritage service; and —
 - (a) if there are gaps, what areas of the state are yet to be covered by a LACHS; and
 - (b) how will economic activity, which is likely to require LACHS approval, be conducted after the promulgation date in those areas where a LACHS is yet to be established?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1) The act will come into effect on 1 July 2023.
- (2)
 - (a) Relevant parts of the act will shortly be proclaimed that will enable the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Council to designate Aboriginal organisations as LACHS where applications are received.
 - (b) The new framework established by the act does not rely on the designation of LACHS as it provides for a range of other Aboriginal parties, including prescribed bodies corporate, to work with proponents seeking to carry out activities that may harm Aboriginal cultural heritage.