

SHARK BAY WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY — STRATEGIC PLAN

315. Hon NEIL THOMSON to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the *Shark Bay World Heritage property: Strategic plan 2008–2020* that lapsed in 2020. This plan is required to satisfy Australia's obligations under the World Heritage Convention, a 1997 state–commonwealth agreement and requirements of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

- (1) Can the minister advise when a reviewed/replacement/draft of the new Shark Bay World Heritage Property strategic plan will be commenced or completed?
- (2) Has the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions commenced community consultation as required by legislation in the adoption process; and, if yes, please outline what consultation has occurred?
- (3) If DBCA intends not to replace or update the plan, what alternative processes are being used to meet the state's legal obligations under the EPBC act 1999?

Hon DARREN WEST replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. On behalf of the Minister for Environment, I provide the following answer. I note that this answer was current as of yesterday, when the question was lodged.

- (1) The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions is currently working with three traditional owner groups in negotiating Indigenous land use agreements, and revising joint management plans for jointly managed lands within the Shark Bay World Heritage area. A review of the strategic plan would not commence until these matters have been resolved.
- (2) See (1).
- (3) There are no sections in the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 regarding obligatory strategic plans for World Heritage properties. The state currently meets its obligations for the management of World Heritage properties under the provisions of the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984, and meets its obligations under the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.