

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT

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

I refer to information about the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act and the almost 30 000 signatures seeking a pause to the new laws, which have been garnered without any advertising

- (1) When will the minister release the Aboriginal site assessment guidelines?
- (2) When will the minister release a fact sheet for small landowners?
- (3) When will the minister release a fact sheet for tradespeople such as plumbers and electricians so they can comply with the new Aboriginal heritage laws on 1 July?
- (4) When will the minister run a TV awareness campaign outlining obligations under the new laws?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

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

- (1) Under the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021, there will not be a statutory site assessment process and, as such, no need for Aboriginal site assessment guidelines. Protected area guidelines and state significance guidelines have already been released. Investigation guidelines and survey guidelines will be published in the coming days.
- (2) There are several fact sheets already released and available on the website for all landowners. Further fact sheets covering a range of topics will be developed.
- (3) The fact sheets provided cover the obligations for individuals and organisations in any circumstances. If anyone has specific questions, they are encouraged to contact the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage directly.
- (4) There will be an extensive radio and newspaper campaign delivered with a particular focus for those in regional Western Australia. Information sessions commenced in May 2023 and are continuing to roll out around the state to meet demand. These will continue after 1 July 2023. Attending the sessions is the best way for people to get an understanding of the new act, and attendees have largely left better informed and more comfortable regarding their obligations.