

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT

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

I refer to an article published in the *National Indigenous Times* on 12 June that says both First Nations people and farmers want the implementation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act delayed. In view of this, the lack of online systems and grave concerns expressed by thousands of landowners and ongoing concerns expressed by the Kimberley Land Council, will the minister delay the implementation of the act by at least six months?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

No. There is no reason to delay the implementation date for the new Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021. The new ICT system will be ready to go when the new act comes into effect on 1 July 2023. There has been intensive consultation on the act and the supporting regulations and statutory guidelines over the past five years. Those documents have all been publicly released and the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage is undertaking education sessions that are being attended by thousands of people.