

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT

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

I refer to the answer to question without notice 437, asked on 9 May 2023, concerning the template Noongar standard heritage agreements.

- (1) How many standard heritage agreements exist?
- (2) How many business operations could be affected?
- (3) Is it possible that businesses covered by standard heritage agreements will need to lodge separate applications under the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act from 1 July?
- (4) Has the state contacted the potentially affected businesses specifically regarding this matter?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1) Under the south west settlement, the Noongar standard heritage agreement is required for government land users, whereas tenement holders and other land users are not legally bound to use the Noongar standard heritage agreement. The government is not party to individual agreements between Indigenous land use agreement groups and other land users, and it does not have copies of those agreements.
- (2) See response to part (1).
- (3) Businesses will need to comply with both the agreed processes of their standard heritage agreement and the requirements of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act.
- (4) No. See response to part (1).