

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT

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

I refer to the rollout and information provided to urban landowners on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act.

- (1) Why has the government not rolled out a TV, radio and social media campaign to alert landowners of their responsibilities when they reside in urban areas?
- (2) Why has the government not created a metropolitan landowner fact sheet so confusion can be alleviated?
- (3) Why are there still different versions, including poorly labelled consultation drafts, of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage code available on government websites when a Google search is undertaken, which can create more confusion?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

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

- (1)–(2) The state government has undertaken an extensive communication and education campaign to ensure that all landholders across the state are aware of the new Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021. The act has been five years in the making. There have been hundreds of workshops and meetings with thousands of participants and hundreds of submissions. The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage is using social media, has prepared multiple fact sheets and has online videos that address how the new act will operate. The department has an online email database of more than 1 600 stakeholders that it has also been using to communicate. I am confident that there is sufficient and clearly available information for all landowners to be able to understand the implications of the act on their personal circumstances. I would also note that, unlike the current Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972, people who own lots smaller than 1 100 square metres, which comprise the vast bulk of lots in the metropolitan area, are exempt from the requirements of the new act.
- (3) For current searches for “Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act WA” the first result will take people to the fact sheets and guidelines.