

NORTH EASTERN HILLS SETTLEMENT PLAN, ABORIGINAL SITE OF SIGNIFICANCE

599. Hon Jim Scott to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

- (1) Is the Department of Planning and Infrastructure bound by the provisions of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*?
- (2) Is the Department required to ensure that Aboriginal sites of significance are identified and protected from development under the MRS Amendment process?
- (3) If yes, has this been done in regard to the North Eastern Hills Settlement Plan?
- (4) If not, why not?

Hon GRAHAM GIFFARD replied:

1. Yes.
2. The process of zoning or reservation of land in the Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS) does not require the Department to identify and protect Aboriginal sites of significance from development. Section 18 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act applies to the development of land. It should be noted, however, that all MRS amendments are referred to the Department of Aboriginal Affairs for comment and those comments are given due consideration in the MRS amendment process.
3. Not applicable. The North Eastern Hills Settlement Plan is a precursor to any MRS Amendment and other implementation actions.
4. Not applicable.