

ABORIGINAL HERITAGE — SECTION 18 APPLICATIONS

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

I refer to the reforms to the Aboriginal heritage laws in WA.

- (1) How many applications for section 18 approvals were made under the existing Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 in 2021–22?
- (2) How many section 18 approvals were approved?
- (3) Has any modelling been undertaken to forecast the number of applications under the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 for —
 - (a) tier 2 permit applications each year; and
 - (b) tier 3 applications each year?
- (4) If no to (3), why not?
- (5) If yes to (3), how many additional staff have been allocated to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage's Aboriginal heritage area to deal with the forecast number of queries?
- (6) How many staff are currently employed by local Aboriginal cultural heritage services to process applications and support Aboriginal heritage assessments?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1) A total of 59.
- (2) A total of 57.
- (3)–(4) The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage has undertaken targeted stakeholder consultation to get an estimate of permit and management plan applications over the next 12 months.
- (5) The state government has allocated an additional \$77 million in funding to support implementation of the new Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021. This includes funding for local Aboriginal cultural heritage services as well as resourcing for the department for an additional 35 staff, including 10 staff in the regions to work directly with proponents and Aboriginal organisations.
- (6) Nil.