

# MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND WATER RESOURCES

(Senate Question No. 1591)

**Senator Siewert** asked the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, upon notice, on 16 February 2006:

- (1) Is the Minister or his department in receipt of nominations for National Heritage or World Heritage listing for the Burrup Peninsula or Dampier Rock Art Province; if so:
  - (a) how many nominations;
  - (b) from which parties; and
  - (c) on what dates.
- (2) Has the Minister or his department received any urgent listing nominations; if so, what is the status of those nominations.
- (3) Has the Minister or his department received any appeals against the National Heritage listing for the Burrup Peninsula or Dampier Rock Art Province; if so, how many and from whom.
- (4) If the Minister or his department has received appeals against the listing, will the details of those appeals be released.
- (5) If the Minister has received appeals against the listing, are those appeals available to the nominees and by what process.
- (6) Has the Minister or his department had any discussions or correspondence with agencies or the Government of Western Australia in relation to their views on the National Heritage listing of the Burrup Peninsula or Dampier Rock Art Province; if so, can an outline of those discussions be provided.
- (7) Has the Minister or his department had any discussions or correspondence with agencies or the Government of Western Australia in relation to their views on the World Heritage listing of the Burrup Peninsula or Dampier Rock Art Province; if so, can an outline of those discussions be provided.
- (8) Has the Minister or his department commissioned any reports into the heritage or other values of the Burrup Peninsula or Dampier Rock Art Province; if so:
  - (a) what are they;
  - (b) how many have been concluded;
  - (c) how many are outstanding; and

(d) can any completed reports be released.

(9) Does the Minister acknowledge that the heritage values of the area are of global significance.

**Senator Abetz** – The Minister for the Environment and Water Resources has provided the following answer to the honourable senator's question:

(1)

(a) There have been three nominations to the National Heritage List relating to the Burrup Peninsula and Dampier Archipelago.

(b) The nominations are from the International Federation of Rock Art Organisations, Indigenous groups from the region, and the National Trust of Western Australia. (c) The nominations were received on 25 March 2004, 10 May 2004 and 24 May 2004, respectively.

(2) I have not, nor has my Department, received a nomination for World Heritage listing. In accordance with the World Heritage Convention only the Australian Government can nominate places within its jurisdiction for inscription on the World Heritage List.

(3) Yes. A request for emergency listing of the area was received on 19 May 2004. The request was subsequently withdrawn and the matter was concluded. A second request for emergency listing was received on 12 December 2006. On 22 December 2006 this request for emergency heritage listing was declined.

(4) (3), (4) and (5) There are no provisions in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* for appeals against proposed inclusions in the National Heritage List.

(5) Yes. The Western Australian Government provided information under [then section 324G (available on the WA Department of Industry and Resources website) and [then] 324H of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* in relation to the potential National Heritage List boundary and the economic and management implications if the place was included in the National Heritage List. I received correspondence from the Western Australian Deputy Premier in March and met with him on 16 April 2007 to discuss the timing of a decision on National Heritage listing and the development of Western Australian management arrangements. I also received correspondence from the Deputy Premier regarding the list on 2 July. My Department also met with officials from the Western Australian Government to discuss procedural aspects of the inclusion of the Dampier Archipelago in the National Heritage List and options for addressing the potential economic, social and management implications.

(6) In 2003 there was correspondence leading to informal discussions between officers from my Department and Western Australian Government officials

about preliminary and procedural aspects of a possible World Heritage Serial Rock Art nomination. These discussions did not continue following the commencement of the National Heritage listing processes.

- (7) Yes. The Department has commissioned two reports. The first report was completed in 2005 and was a desktop study of scientific values for Indigenous cultural heritage on the Burrup Peninsula and Dampier Archipelago. This report has been released to the nominators and to the persons identified under s.324G(4) of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* as owners and occupiers and Indigenous persons with rights and interests in the nominated area. In 2006 this report was updated, as information that could not be accessed in 2005 was subsequently made available for consideration. This second report was completed in August 2006.
- (8) On 3 July 2007 I acknowledged the Dampier Archipelago and Burrup Peninsula's outstanding heritage value to the nation by including it in the National Heritage List. I also acknowledge it has significance of an international scale.