

Question On Notice No. 5919 asked in the **Legislative Council** on **19 February 2008** by **Hon Giz Watson**

Question Directed to the: **Minister for Local Government representing the Minister for Indigenous Affairs**

Minister responding: **Hon M.H. Roberts**

Parliament: **37** Session: **1**

Question

With regard to the Burrup Peninsula, Dampier Archipelago and Ingenious Heritage, I ask –

- (1) On what date did Woodside complete moving petroglyphs, panels standing stones and other material from sites A and B?
- (2) Without identifying specific locations, was the cultural material moved on site A retained on the leases on the western side of the Haul Road?
- (3) Without identifying specific locations, was the cultural material moved on site B retained on the lease on eastern side of the Haul Road?
- (4) Was any cultural material relocated to any other location on the Burrup?
- (5) Was any cultural material relocated to the old fenced compound to the northeast of Burrup Fertilisers?
- (6) If yes to (4) or (5), how much material of what nature was moved?
- (7) Given the instability of the relatively recent rock slopes in the major valley that transects site B in SE-NW transect, what methods will be used to protect rock art and other material by ensuring slope stability in this valley?
- (8) Will independent scientific monitoring of the relocated rock art be undertaken at regular intervals to ensure stability, integrity and weathering?
- (9) If yes to (8), by whom, how many times a year and will the monitoring be ongoing?
- (10) If no to (8), why not?
- (11) Will independent archaeological experts be allowed to view the relocated material and how?

Answered on 2 April 2008

The Department of Indigenous Affairs advises:

- (1) 16 January 2008
- (2) Yes
- (3) Yes
- (4) No
- (5) No

(6) N/A

(7) Woodside have employed a number of measures including protective matting and sand bagging to protect and support engraved boulders.

(8-9) This issue will be addressed once construction works are completed and progressed in consultation with the Aboriginal community to take into consideration cultural sensitivities and also in consultation with Woodside to ensure there are no safety issues.

(10) N/A

(11) The Department of Indigenous Affairs welcomes the inspection of cultural material on Pluto A and B however access will need to be facilitated in consultation with the Aboriginal community in consideration of cultural sensitivities and co-ordinated with Woodside to ensure there are no safety issues.