

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL MATERIAL COMMITTEE — SACRED SITE CLASSIFICATION —
MURRAY RIVER

882. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:

- (1) When was the Murray River first classified as a sacred Aboriginal site for the purposes of Department of Aboriginal Affairs and state planning consents?
- (2) When was this classification removed; and why and by whom?
- (3) When was the declassification overturned; and why and by whom?
- (4) What is the current classification of the Murray River as far as planning consents go, and what are the requirements associated with this classification?
- (5) Between 2000 and 2013 —
 - (a) how many approvals were sought by property owners between 2000 and 2013 on work being undertaken on a sacred Aboriginal site on the Murray River;
 - (b) how many of these were approved; and
 - (c) how many were pending at the time of the declassification?

Hon PETER COLLIER replied:

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

- (1) The Murray River was assessed in 2000 by the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee as meeting the requirements of section 5 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972.
- (2) DAA 3537, Murray River, was subsequently reassessed in 2013 by the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee as not meeting section 5 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972, based on information available at the time of consideration.
- (3) The reassessment of DAA 3537, Murray River, has not been overturned. However, as a result of the Justice Chaney decision in 2015, the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee will reassess DAA 3537, Murray River, at its October 2016 meeting.
- (4) DAA 3537, Murray River, is currently listed as “not a site” on the Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. There are no statutory requirements for landowners to seek consent from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs to disturb the land.
- (5) (a)–(c) Between 2000 and 2013 there were no statutory applications from private landowners.