

DEPARTMENT OF INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS — WOODSIDE — JAMES PRICE POINT DEVELOPMENT

596. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs:

I refer to the article in *The Australian* newspaper of 10 September 2012 concerning letters from the Department of Indigenous Affairs to Woodside regarding James Price Point.

- (1) When did the department write to Woodside about possible significant Aboriginal sites in the James Price Point area?
- (2) Specifically, what Aboriginal sites were raised by the department that were of concern?
- (3) Has the minister had any discussions with Woodside regarding the contents of these letters; and, if so, when?
- (4) Did the minister instruct the department to withdraw the letters? If yes, on what basis, and when and why?
- (5) If no, who did instruct the department to withdraw the letters, on what basis, and when and why?

Hon PETER COLLIER replied:

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

- (1) The Department of Indigenous Affairs has been providing ongoing advice to Woodside regarding heritage values at James Price Point since 2009. Specific advice was provided from the department to Woodside on 7 October 2010 in response to a program of works application by the company. On 22 July 2011 the department provided advice to Woodside that its operations at James Price Point may be in contravention of section 5 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972.
- (2) The advice of 22 July 2011 did not refer to particular sites but referred to a potential heritage place that has an area of 713 square kilometres.
- (3)–(4) No.
- (5) I am advised that the department made the decision to withdraw the map attached to the 22 July advice to Woodside as it was deemed to be unhelpful as it contained preliminary advice about cultural heritage information from the Goolarabooloo and not any specific sites.