

Division 37: Attorney General (Native Title Policy), \$347 115 000 —

Mr I.C. Blayney, Chairman.

Mrs L.M. Harvey, Minister for Police representing the Attorney General.

Mr A. Murphy, Acting Executive Director, Land, Approvals and Native Title Unit.

Ms A. Elder, Manager, South West Settlement, Land, Approvals and Native Title Unit.

Mr M. Connolly, Principal Policy Adviser, Office of the Attorney General.

[Witnesses introduced.]

The CHAIRMAN: This estimates committee will be reported by Hansard staff. The daily proof *Hansard* will be available the following day.

It is the intention of the Chair to ensure that as many questions as possible are asked and answered and that both questions and answers are short and to the point. The estimates committee's consideration of the estimates will be restricted to discussion of those items for which a vote of money is proposed in the consolidated account. Questions must be clearly related to a page number, item program or amount in the current division. It will greatly assist Hansard if members can give these details in preface to their question. The minister may agree to provide supplementary information to the committee, rather than asking that the question be put on notice for the next sitting week. I ask the minister to clearly indicate what supplementary information she agrees to provide and I will then allocate a reference number. If supplementary information is to be provided, I seek the minister's cooperation in ensuring that it is delivered to the principal clerk by Friday, 19 June 2015. I caution members that if a minister asks that a matter be put on notice, it is up to the member to lodge the question on notice with the Clerk's office.

Member for Victoria Park.

Mr B.S. WYATT: I refer to page 438 and to the obvious line item "State Solicitor's Office—South West Native Title Agreement" and the allocation of \$335 000 for 2015–16 which, I assume, was for legal advice about the settlement of native title with the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council. How many other native title agreements is the State Solicitor working on at this time? Will a specific budget allocation be needed for those agreements or was one needed only for this agreement?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I will defer to Mr Murphy to respond.

Mr A. Murphy: With respect to a specific allocation for the number of agreements being negotiated, there is no specific figure. There is the budget allocation to the unit itself and from that we negotiate the agreements with the groups that are willing to enter into negotiations with us. At this point, about six negotiations are active.

Mr B.S. WYATT: So the \$335 000 was a special allocation for a particular significant agreement, obviously. Can the minister tell Parliament what are the other six claims that are being worked on?

Mr A. Murphy: Which page is the member referring to?

Mr B.S. WYATT: I am referring to page 438. My second question is a follow-up to the answer to the first question about the six negotiations the office is working on. What six groups is the office negotiating with?

[2.10 pm]

Mr A. Murphy: In 2014–15, a total of 14 government Indigenous land use agreements are being negotiated. There are 14 ILUAs on the list for negotiation, including the six from the south west—Whadjuk, Yued, Gnaala Karla Boodja, South West Boorah, Wagyl Kaip and Ballardong. Outside the south west —

Mr B.S. WYATT: There is another eight.

Mr A. Murphy: That is right. They are the Martu, Dambimangari, Willinggin, Karajarri, Nyangumarta and Yawinya, which are part of the Kimberley science and conservation negotiations; Balanggarra combined, which is made up of two groups; and Bunuba Fitzroy Crossing.

Mr B.S. WYATT: I think I might have asked this question last year. Does the minister expect any of the eight ILUAs outside the south west to conclude in the 2015–16 financial year?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I will get Mr Murphy to respond.

Mr A. Murphy: Yes, we do. There are meetings in the Kimberley at the moment, and I understand that just yesterday an ILUA was agreed by the group, although it still needs to go through the formalities. An ILUA normally takes two to three years, so we are seeing a couple of years of engagement coming through to groups starting to accept the agreements that have been put to them. We are hoping for at least three or four of the

Kimberley science and conservation ILUAs to be signed off, but they are still subject to the groups agreeing to that.

Mr B.S. WYATT: I thank Mr Murphy for that answer.

In regard to the rollover of pastoral leases that is taking place, has the State Solicitor's Office been asked for or given advice about the native title implications? Of course, I am not asking for the content of that advice.

Mr A. Murphy: Yes, it has. The rollover of pastoral leases is not affected by native title in the current form.

The CHAIRMAN: The committee will now suspend division 37 until a later stage of today's estimates.

Division interrupted until a later stage of the sitting.