

BURRUP PENINSULA — ROCK ART VANDALISM

2870. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Indigenous Affairs

I refer to question without notice No. 754, vandalism, the potential theft of an Aboriginal petroglyph on the Burrup Peninsula, and photographs contained in '2010-09-22 New Vandalism in Kangaroo Paw Valley.pdf' at <http://www.robinchapple.org.au/node/460>, and ask —

- (1) What is the Minister or the Department doing, to stop these illegal acts?
- (2) If no action is being taken in respect of (1), why not?
- (3) What action is the Minister taking to ensure that the identified archaic geometric petroglyph is protected from theft?
- (4) If no action is being taken in respect of (3), why not?
- (5) Is the Minister or the Department taking any action to require companies to induct their employees in the region into the international importance, values, and cultural significance of the Dampier Archipelago petroglyphs?
- (6) If no to (5), why not?
- (7) Has the Minister or his Department informed the Federal Government of these incidents in the National Heritage listed area?
- (8) If yes to (7) —
  - (a) on what date was this referred; and
  - (b) has the Federal authority replied?
- (9) If no to (7), why not?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1) The Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA) deployed a Senior Heritage Officer on 27 October 2010 to undertake a site inspection and assessment of the reported matter. DIA will take appropriate and feasible actions based on the information recorded from this visit.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The Minister for Indigenous Affairs has requested the DIA to keep him updated of developments on this matter.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) The Minister and/or DIA can only advise companies to do so.
- (6) See response to question 5.
- (7) Yes. The Federal Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPAC) has indicated that without an identified offender it is unable to do anything about the matter. DIA has asked if there are any Federal programs or funding that can be accessed to assist in this matter, and there is ongoing liason between the departments in this regard.
- (8)
  - (a) 13 October 2009
  - (b) Yes.
- (9) Not applicable.