

ABORIGINAL HERITAGE ACT — COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 15

**486. Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE to the minister representing the Minister for Indigenous Affairs:**

I refer to section 15 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972.

- (1) Are all persons, companies and mining operations required to comply with section 15?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?
- (3) If yes to (1), do mining companies comply with section 15?
- (4) What is the penalty should a person, company or mining operation not comply with section 15 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972?

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The Minister for Indigenous Affairs has provided the following response, which I am happy to relay to the member.

- (1) No.
- (2) A person of Aboriginal descent who usually lives customary to traditional law can utilise section 7 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 and not reveal cultural information prohibited from disclosure by relevant Aboriginal customary law or tradition.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) There are no express penalties for failing to comply with section 15 of the AHA.