

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL MATERIALS COMMITTEE — COMPOSITION

1938. Hon Alison Xamon to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Indigenous Affairs

I refer to the Aboriginal Cultural Materials Committee (ACMC), and I ask -

- (1) How is the composition of the ACMC decided?
- (2) Will the Minister please specify the number of professional anthropologists and archaeologists represented on the ACMC in each of the years 2000-2010?
- (3) How does the ACMC weight the value and importance of conflicting information, such as archaeological and anthropological reports provided by parties with different interests in particular sites?
- (4) What criteria must an anthropological or archaeological report meet before it can be considered by the ACMC?
- (5) What consideration is given to reports that do not meet these criteria?
- (6) Should a report not meet the criteria, yet be submitted as part of a Section 18 application?
- (7) What advice is given to the people who provided it?
- (8) Under what circumstances would it be considered as part of the ACMC discussion on the Section 18 application it refers to?
- (9) How many Section 18 applications have been dealt with at each ACMC meeting in each of the years 2000-2009?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

The Minister for Indigenous Affairs has provided the following response:

1. By Ministerial appointment under section 28(2-4) of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (AHA).
2. Under section 28(3) of the AHA, it is a requirement that a specialist anthropologist be appointed by the Minister for Indigenous Affairs. There is no requirement under the provisions of the AHA for the appointment of an archaeologist to the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee (ACMC).
Specialist anthropologists appointed since 2000: Mr Ian Crawford from 2000 to 2004, Mr Michael Robinson from 2004 to 2009 and Mr Kado Muir from 2009 to present.
Some of the appointed members during this period also have qualifications and/or extensive experience and knowledge in cultural heritage management, archaeology or anthropology.
3. The ACMC has a statutory responsibility to assess sites against sections 5 and 39 of the AHA. The ACMC considers the information provided about a site and, if there is inconclusive information or divergent opinion, it may seek further clarifying information about a site.
4. Anthropological and archaeological reports need to include a detailed survey of the land described in the Notice under section 18 of the AHA identifying any sites and showing evidence of consultation with relevant Aboriginal people and other stakeholders. The Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA) has guidance documents available on its website to assist report writers.
5. Initially DIA assists the applicant and the ACMC by advising the applicant to address any shortcomings in their section 18 Notice, including improving the quality and appropriateness of any reports accompanying their application. The Applicant can insist that the section 18 Notice proceed to a meeting for consideration by the ACMC, however, the ACMC may defer consideration if it feels unable to fulfil its statutory obligations to make determinations about the existence of sites.
6. No. However, proponents may request that their application go to the ACMC meeting.
7. See response to questions 5 and 6.
8. ACMC members read and assess all the information that is provided by the proponent as part of the section 18 deliberative process. See response to questions 5, 6 and 7.
9. 2000

Meeting Date	Number of Notices
08-February-2000	7
16-March-2000	1
11-April-2000	13

13-June-2000	11
08-August-2000	13
10-October-2000	6
12-December-2000	5

2001

Meeting Date	Number of Notices
06-February-2001	6
03-April-2001	6
12-June-2001	11
07-August-2001	12
03-October-2001	16
11-December-2001	9

2002

Meeting Date	Number of Notices
05-February-2002	3
02-May-2002	1
10-April-2002	13
11-June-2002	10
09-July-2002	3
06-August-2002	14
08-October-2002	18
03-December-2002	16
17-December-2002	4

2003

Meeting Date	Number of Notices
25-February-2003	4
02-April-2003	15
20-May-2003	4
04-June-2003	13
08-July-2003	1
05-August-2003	17
07-October-2003	11
12-December-2003	20
29-December-2003	1

2004

Meeting Date	Number of Notices
04-March-2004	10
06-April-2004	16
02-June-2004	10
13-July-2004	2
10-August-2004	14
12-October-2004	21
07-December-2004	25

2005

Meeting Date	Number of Notices
01-February-2005	6
02-March-2005	3
06-April-2005	14
04-May-2005	9
08-June-2005	7
06-July-2005	5
10-August-2005	5
07-September-2005	8
12-October-2005	16

02-November-2005	7
07-December-2005	13

2006

Meeting Date	Number of Notices
07-February-2006	8
05-April-2006	9
03-May-2006	8
07-June-2006	10
05-July-2006	11
02-August-2006	5
06-September-2006	10
04-October-2006	6
01-November-2006	9
06-December-2006	20

2007

Meeting Date	Number of Notices
07-February-2007	9
07-March-2007	11
04-April-2007	7
02-May-2007	9
06-June-2007	8
04-July-2007	3
01-August-2007	10
05-September-2007	9
03-October-2007	16
07-November-2007	13
05-December-2007	10

2008

Meeting Date	Number of Notices
06-February-2008	11
05-March-2008	10
08-April-2008	6
08-May-2008	6
04-June-2008	6
09-July-2008	6
06-August-2008	12
08-August-2008	1
03-September-2008	14
01-October-2008	10
14-October-2008	1
16-October-2008	1
05-November-2008	13
03-December-2008	13
15-December-2008	2

2009

Meeting Date	Number of Notices
04-February-2009	8
04-March-2009	4
01-April-2009	9
06-May-2009	6
09-June-2009	14
01-July-2009	6
05-August-2009	8
02-September-2009	7

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Hon Alison Xamon; Hon Simon O'Brien

07-October-2009	9
04-November-2009	9
02-December-2009	16
11-December-2009	3