

PRESCRIBED BURNING — ABORIGINAL HERITAGE

1458. Hon Dr Brad Pettitt to the parliamentary secretary to the Minister for Environment:

- (1) Does the Department consider that prescribed burning activities cause impacts to cultural heritage sites or values?
- (2) Does the Department seek approvals under the Aboriginal Heritage Act for such impacts:
  - (a) if not, why not?
- (3) If yes to (2), can the Minister please table any section 18 approvals held by the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions for prescribed burning or other management activities:
  - (a) if not, why not?

**Hon Darren West replied:**

- (1) The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) is aware that some activities associated with prescribed burning have the potential to impact cultural heritage sites or values.
- (2) Where an intended activity may be in breach of Section 17 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*, DBCA will seek a Section 18 approval.
- (3) DBCA does not have a central repository for such approvals, which are coordinated by various areas of the agency (e.g. regions, districts, branches and statutory authorities). Given the level of agency resourcing required to source and provide the requested information, it is not considered to be a reasonable use of government resources. I am happy to arrange a briefing by DBCA for the Honourable Member to explain DBCA's consideration of cultural heritage sites and values in the prescribed burning planning process and for other management activities.