

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Higgins to the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources

Appropriation Bill – Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority

Please provide copies of:

- all questions, which you have received from the public in relation to the Estimates process and consideration of the Appropriation Bill for the 2017/18 financial year; and
- the answers to those questions that were presented to the Estimates Committee.

Please provide the information requested below for Agencies and Government authorities for which you have responsibility, as at 31 March 2017.

ABORIGINAL AREAS PROTECTION AUTHORITY
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Please accept apologies if questions are not under the correct Output. Where this is the case, it would be appreciated if you could indicate the appropriate Output in your response. Thank You.

OUTPUT GROUP: PROTECTION OF SACRED SITES

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1. The budget paper states a budget highlight for AAPA is “Investing to modernise the secure information technology system for sacred site registration and protection.” How much money is allocated to this? What are the timelines for its implementation?
2. The budget paper also states that another budget highlight for AAPA is “Reviewing the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act* to ensure a contemporary and best practice approach to preserving and protecting sacred sites across the Territory.” What are the expected timelines and terms of reference for this review? Is “Budget highlight” an accurate description of this?
3. In the key performance indicator table for AAPA it notes that “the increase in the average time to complete a request for information reflects the higher volume, complexity and scale of applications

received.” Please expand on how the complexity of applications are increasing. Please expand on how the scale of applications are increasing.

4. Please explain why AAPA is sending a representative to Contour Biennale. How does this fit within the agency’s Strategic Objectives as listed within the budget papers?
5. We understand that McArthur River Mining has applied for a variation to its authority certificate to increase the size of its wasterock dump. Please advise on the status of this application.
6. Please provide an update on Ord Development Project Stage 3 in relation to AAPA. Is it correct that the Keep River Plain, approximately one-third of the project area is considered a sacred site by AAPA?

OUTPUT GROUP: CORPORATE AND GOVERNANCE

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1. In response to Global Written Questions a number of consultancies were listed, none of which had an Eol or a tender. Please advise if this is common in AAPA.
2. A \$48,000 contract without a tender or Eol has been issued for a Canberra-based anthropologist for Project Sea Dragon on Legune Station, due to his or her local credentials.
3. Please elaborate on Dr McWilliams’ experience working with people from this area.
4. A \$30,000 contract without a tender or Eol has been issued for a Canberra-based anthropologist for Project Sea Dragon on Legune Station, due to his or her local credentials. Please elaborate on Dr Holcombe’s experience working with people from this area?
5. Why are the contracts for different amounts?
6. An \$8000 contract without a tender or Eol has been issued for a Sydney-based student anthropologist on Mt Bundy Exploration Drilling? Please explain why?
7. A \$9000 contract has been issued to develop a strategic plan. Please provide a copy of the plan.