



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QTON No. 12

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES
MS TARA CHEYNE MLA (CHAIR), CANDICE BURCH MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), JAMES MILLIGAN MLA

Inquiry into referred 2018–19 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
13 November 2019

Asked by Mr James Milligan:

In relation to: Registered Aboriginal organisations

Mr Gentleman: It may well be that we would need to amend the act for particular groups.

MR MILLIGAN: Like any gaps that you might see that another group might be able to step into and provide any—

Mr Gentleman: There is certainly knowledge. You know, there is other groups that have different knowledge from their time and it is passed down through the generations. However, you know, it was a number of years ago where the government took a position to recognise Nggunawal people as the traditional custodians of the land.

To step away from that would be, I think, a challenge for all of us as a community and that is why we need to really carefully balance what any other RAOs would be eligible. But, you know, this conversation does not stop here. We are still talking with Minister Stephen-Smith about whether further RAOs could be engaged. But it is a delicate conversation.

MR MILLIGAN: I guess no one would be suggesting that you would bring in anyone else that is not from the Nggunawal country—

Mr Gentleman: There are other interested.

MR MILLIGAN: —to bring something, I think. So when could we expect a decision from the government to whether or not they will open up this process or broaden it.

Mr Gentleman: I think it will be sometime. But let me take that on notice. I will talk to Minister Stephen-Smith about the position that she is up to at the moment and we will come back to you.

MR MILLIGAN: Thank you, chair.



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MINISTER GENTLEMAN: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

A review of the RAO system is not identified as a priority for 2019-20.

The RAO system was considered as part of the wider review of the Act from 2010, and its subsequent amendment in 2014, and the Government at the time determined that amendments to the Act were not required.

EPSDD keeps a record of Aboriginal individuals and organisations who have expressed an interest in being declared as RAOs should any future review of the RAO system occur.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services

Signature:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "Mick Gentleman", written over a horizontal line.

Date:

28/11/19

By the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Mick Gentleman