



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES
SUZANNE ORR MLA (CHAIR), CANDICE BURCH MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), JAMES MILLIGAN MLA

Inquiry into referred 2017–18 Annual and Financial Reports ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by NICOLE LAWDER: To ask the Minister for the Environment and Heritage

Ref: EPSDD, Heritage, 3.1

In relation to: Relocation, Conservation and Interpretation of an Aboriginal Cultural tree, Namadgi visitors centre.

- 1) What consultation was undertaken in regards relocation of the Aboriginal Cultural tree?
- 2) What role did the Aboriginal rangers have in the relation?
- 3) What role did the Aboriginal elected body have in regards to the removal? Was the Aboriginal elected body consulted? Did they conduct any consultation on behalf of the Government with the wider aboriginal community?
- 4) How much has the relocation of the tree cost?

MICK GENTLEMAN: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The proposal to move the Aboriginal canoe tree from the Outward Bound facility at Tharwa had its origins in Aboriginal community consultation, being initially requested by Representative Aboriginal Organisations (RAOs). All stages of the project have involved consultation with RAOs, which has included:
 - Provision of information about the project;
 - Opportunities to attend on-site meetings to discuss the project;
 - Provision of information about the proposed methods of physically moving the tree;
 - Provision of information about the proposed materials conservation works to the tree;
 - Opportunities to attend the relocation of the cultural tree;
 - Provision of information about the proposed interpretation of the tree; and
 - Opportunities to attend the public launch of the project.

In addition, the United Ngunnawal Elders Council were consulted about the project, reflecting their significant role in providing advice to the ACT Government in relation to heritage and connect to land matters in the ACT. This consultation included provision of information about the project at its outset and the opportunity to attend on site meetings to discuss the project.

2. The project was primarily coordinated by the ACT Parks and Conservation Service; and Aboriginal rangers and personnel had a key role; being the primary contacts for RAO and Aboriginal stakeholder consultation.
3. In addition to consultation with RAOs and UNEC described above, the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body (ATSIEB) were provided with information about the project at its outset and afforded opportunity to attend on site meetings to discuss the project. Any questions on how ATSIEB may have consulted the wider Aboriginal community should be directed to ATSIEB.
4. The importance of the project is reflected in its budget, with \$76,000 originally allocated in the 2016-2017 Capital Works program; and a further \$13,277 allocated in subsequent budgets. The total cost of the project – including relocation, materials conservation works, installation and interpretation – is therefore \$89,277.

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

Signature:



Date: 30/11/18

By the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Mick Gentleman MLA