



STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY
MARISA PATERSON MLA (CHAIR), ANDREW BRADDOCK MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), LEANNE CASTLEY MLA

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
2 March 2021

Asked by MR BRADDOCK:

In relation to: Heritage compliance

MR BRADDOCK: I have just got a series of questions on heritage compliance and I will start off with just noting the Heritage Amendment Act passed in February last year and I just wanted to check to see how those powers have been utilised under that Act. So firstly, I have just got a question in terms of—has the Heritage Council issued a direction under section 62, basically to protect the heritage under threat?

Ms Vassarotti: I will defer to my officials.

Mr Walker: I do not believe that is the case and in fact, I am not—yes, it is not a power that is used routinely in the protection of heritage assets in the territory.

MR BRADDOCK: Okay. Have they had to issue a repair damage direction at all over the—since the Act has been in force?

Mr Walker: There have been repair orders issued, I have to check on the timing of those but there has been, in the past, repair orders issued.

MR BRADDOCK: Is it possible just to find out on notice everything we have done in the last financial year?

Mr Walker: I will take on notice that and come back with some clarity on that, the exact numbers.

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

In the 2019-2020 financial year:

- One (1) Heritage Direction was issued by the ACT Heritage Council (the Council), under Section 62 of the *Heritage Act 2004* to ensure protection of a number of Aboriginal places during construction works, following report of an impact incident in November 2019;
- Zero (0) Repair Damage Directions were issued by the Council, under Section 67A of the *Heritage Act 2004*.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QTON No.11

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Heritage Directions and Repair Damage Directions are only issued by the Council in circumstances where, respectively, there is an imminent threat to heritage places and objects, or where damage has occurred to heritage places and objects and that damage can be repaired.

While such circumstances are rare, the ability to issue Directions provides the Council with effective and flexible ways to deal with Heritage Act offences and threats, and reflects the ACT Government's commitment to conserving heritage places and objects for current and future generations.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity

Signature:

Date: 17/3/2021

By the Minister for Heritage, Rebecca Vassarotti MLA