Hon Lynn MacLaren to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

I refer to Question No CI017 asked 15 September 2015 -

1. Please table the 'the new information about the archaeological heritage places on the land' that was considered by the Aboriginal Cultural Materials Committee at its June 2015 meeting.

2. With reference to 1), please state:
   a) the sites to which the new information was relevant;
   b) a description of this new information;
   c) the qualifications of the person or people who collected the information; and
   d) whether the person or people who collected the information were Department of Aboriginal Affairs employees.

3. Given Appendix D of the ACMC's June 2015 minutes states unambiguously that the Section 18 notice for Roe 8 will impact upon DAA 3709 within the meaning of section 5 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act, what is the Government's explanation for neither assessing the impact of Roe 8 on this registered mythological site nor taking advice from a specialist anthropologist on the matter?

I thank the Hon. Member for some notice of this question.

1. Yes I table the response.

2.
   a. DAA 4107 (Bibra Lake North) and DAA 3296 (Hope Road Swamp/Bibra Lake).

   b. Yes I table the response.

   c. Both individuals are Site Assessment Officers and are qualified archaeologists.

   d. Yes.

3. DAA 3709 (North Lake and Bibra Lake) is already a registered site and was not required to be reassessed by the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee at its June 2015 meeting. It is the role of the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee to make a recommendation to me as Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. Under section 18(3) of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972, where the Committee submits a notice to me under sub section (2), I shall consider its recommendation and have regard to the general interest of the community. I accepted the recommendations by the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee to grant consent, subject to conditions.
DAA Site Assessment
Internal Inspection Report

Date(s) work was conducted: 26 March, 2014
DAA Region: Metro/Wheatbelt

DAA Recorders:
Henry Thomason
Sarah Lewis
Informants: N/A

Background:
DAA Region:

DAA4107 Bibra Lake North is a registered Aboriginal site (Resolution ID 2011/236). It was recorded by R. Stranger in 1973 as an artefact scatter containing over 2000 artefacts of quartz, fossiliferous chert, clay and glass situated on the northern banks of Bibra Lake and south of Hope Road. In 2000, A. Yates revisited the place and did not identify any cultural material on the surface. Previous reports have stated the place has the potential for sub-surface cultural material (Coldrick 2004, Gifford, et al. 2011, O’Connor and Quartermaine 1987, Yates 2000) while one report states that the disturbance has removed the potential for sub-surface cultural material (Cecchi 2011).

DAA3296 Hope Road Swamp/Bibra Lake is currently not listed as an Aboriginal site as it was determined to have Insufficient Information (Resolution ID 2011/236). It was recorded by R. Stranger in 1974 as a camp and artefact scatter south of Hope Road. The artefacts were collected and analyse by the Western Australian Museum. In 2000, A. Yates revisited this place and confirmed that no cultural material remained at this location.

Investigation:

On 26 March 2014, Henry Thomason and Sarah Lewis inspected DAA4107 and DAA3296 to determine the presence of Aboriginal cultural material at either location.

At DAA4107, east-west transects at 10 m spacing were conducted across the boundaries of the site. Areas of high ground exposure were also targeted. Ground visibility across the site ranged between 20% and 80%. The overall ground visibility was low with large amounts of grass and leaf litter obscuring visibility. The area has been subjected to high amounts of disturbance from the construction of Hope Road and the parklands surrounding Bibra Lake which include pathways and landscaping works. No Aboriginal cultural material was identified within the site boundaries.

A small shovel test pit to the depth of 20cm was conducted in DAA4107 at 388964mE 6449676mN. The results of the shovel test pit revealed that the top section of the sub-surface deposit is heavily
disturbed from the parklands. Only modern and historic glass was identified and no Aboriginal cultural material was identified. An in-depth archaeological excavation program may establish the presence of an intact sub-surface deposit below the level of disturbance which was beyond the scope of the inspection visit.

At OAA 3296, meandering transects were conducted within the boundaries of the reported place. Areas of high ground exposure were targeted. Ground visibility across the area ranged from 10% to 80%. The overall ground visibility was very poor with large amounts of grass growth obscuring ground visibility. The area has been subjected to high amounts of disturbance due to the construction of roads and a gas pipeline. No Aboriginal cultural material was identified within the reported place's boundaries.

References:


Plate 1: View North of DAA 4107
Plate 2: DAA 4107 View East along Hope Road
Plate 3: DAA 4107 View West along Hope Road

Plate 4: DAA 4107 View South towards Bibra Lake