

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment portfolio**

**Question No:** 48  
**Hearing:** Additional Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Programme:** Environment Standards Division (ESD)  
**Topic:** Western Sydney Airport - World Heritage Committee - Indigenous community consultation  
**Hansard Page:** 132  
**Question Date:** 08 February 2016  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Cameron asked:**

**Senator CAMERON:** Have you had any discussions with the local Indigenous community on this EIS on the heritage values that the Indigenous committee hold dear?

**Mr Tregurtha:** Again, as I have explained, I have not read the EIS, so not wanting to mislead the committee I would have to take that on notice.

**Answer:**

The Department of the Environment has not directly held discussions with the local Indigenous community. Under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), public consultations with all interested stakeholders are the responsibility of the proponent, in this case the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development.

The Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development has stated in the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that consultations were undertaken with the local Indigenous community.

As part of finalising the EIS, the proponent will provide copies of all public submissions received on the draft EIS, including those from the local indigenous community, to the Minister for the Environment. They will also provide the Minister with a summary of how the public comments have been addressed in the final EIS.