

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

Question No: 47
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division
Topic: CAPE YORK WOLRD HERITAGE NOMINATION
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 29 October 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Waters asked:

How does the Department intend to get the “consent” of the Cape York community? Will this involve a plebiscite/ vote in the general community, or consulting relevant mayors, or taking the word from a local MP or..?

Answer:

1. The Australian Government has stated that a Cape York nomination will only be submitted for inclusion on the World Heritage List with the consent of traditional owners, the agreement of the Queensland Government and broad community support.
2. The Department has sought the views of traditional owner groups across Cape York on world heritage and previously supported the Queensland Government to undertake consultations with traditional owners under its Country Based Planning programme.
3. The Queensland Government has the primary responsibility to prepare any future World Heritage nomination for Cape York, including gauging whether there is broad community support.