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Asked By: Hon Giz Watson

Tabled Paper

No:

Question & Answer:

With regard to the tender documents for complete Aboriginal Heritage Surveys of the Conservation Areas on the Islands of the Dampier Archipelago (CAIDA), I ask -

- (1) Will the survey work entail executed inventory type surveying of the CAIDA?
- (2) Will the survey work be carried out be at least to the standards, methodologies and evaluation criteria laid down by Virilli, Dix, Bevacqua, and Lorblanchet?
- (3) Will the survey work include an evaluation, analysis and excavation work on the stone terraces contained within the CAIDA?
- (4) Will the survey work include an evaluation and analysis of the material and relationships of the material located in the CAIDA compared with that of the BMIEA and Roebourne town plan No 8 strategic industrial zones?
- (5) If no to (4), why not?
- (6) If yes to (4), how will this be achieved?
- (7) Will the survey work include an evaluation, analysis and excavation work on the various types of middens contained within the CAIDA?
- (8) Will the survey work include an evaluation and analysis of the relationship between degree of weathering, specific detail of motifs (e.g. detached heads), and medium-scale distribution (valley-sides, valley head, plateau, etc)?
- (9) Will the survey work achieve an overall view of the relative usage as it varied over time of different areas and peaks of the CAIDA and the Archipelago?
- (10) Will the survey work evaluate the time scale of application of all material and its distribution and relationship throughout the CAIDA and Australia?
- (11) Will carbon dating or other dating methods be used on any of the material located?
- (12) Does the Minister concur with the peer view that any meaningful survey of the CAIDA would require many archaeologists over an extended period, possibly numbering in the tens of years?
- (13) Is there any final date determined for the conclusion of the survey work?
- (14) If yes to (13), what is the concluding date?
- (15) Why are the recognised prolific carving areas of, Skew Valley, Gum Tree Valley, Pistol Ranges, West Intercourse Island and the catchments of Boongaree, Withnell Bay, Mt Wongama being excluded from this survey work?
- (16) Why are the recognised prolific carving areas of National Estate Register 10087 and National Estate Register 10097 (AHA 56) excluded from this survey work?

The Department of Indigenous Affairs advises:

- (1) The surveys will entail archival research and desktop studies of existing information from within the survey areas, development of predictive modelling and comprehensive field surveys including an inspection, and rerecording of existing registered sites.
- (2) The surveys will comply with the Burrup heritage report standards, prepared in accordance with clause 6.1 of the Burrup and Maitland Industrial Estate Agreement (BMIEA).
- (3) Individual stone terraces will be examined and analysed to determine if they are human origin or geological features. No excavation will be undertaken given the generally low sedimentation rates on the Dampier Archipelago.
- (4) Not as part of the initial work.
- (5) Collation and analysis of the data from these surveys, and those of the BMIEA industrial lands, will be conducted on completion of all the surveys.
- (6) Not applicable.
- (7) The surveys will include an archaeological assessment of all sites, including middens, based on surface observations. No excavation works will be undertaken as part of the surveys.
- (8) The surveys will include an archaeological assessment of all sites, including petroglyphs, and provide commentary on inferred age, significance and location within the landscape.
- (9) The possible interpretation of the use of Dampier Archipelago as it varied over time will only be possible if sufficient chronological markers can be identified.
- (10) The interpretation of the distribution of material within the Dampier Archipelago within a time scale will only be possible if sufficient chronological markers are identified.
- (11) Radiocarbon (C14) dating will not be used on any material located. The presence of chronological markers enabling inferred dating of sites will be recorded.
- (12) A 100 per cent survey of the area would take many tens of years. A meaningful sampling strategy making use of archival research, previous studies and predictive modelling would require considerably less time.
- (13) Funding is available until the end of the 2008/09 financial year. There is, however, potential for the tender to be performed over a number of years.
- (14) Not applicable.
- (15) The surveys are to be conducted over the conservation areas managed by the Department of Environment and Conservation. Existing industrial areas have been, or will be, surveyed by proponents prior to any development. The proposed industrial lands identified within the BMIEA area are currently being surveyed in accordance with the BMIEA.
- (16) National Estate Register 10087 (Skew and Gum Tree Valleys) is located outside the conservation area. National Estate Register 10097 (Climbing Men) is located within the area to be surveyed.