

Aboriginal Heritage Protection Laws

Dr WOODRUFF question to MINISTER for ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

The Tasmanian Aboriginal constituents have asked me if you will halt major project developments until adequate Aboriginal heritage protection laws have been agreed to. Currently there are developments being proposed on significant Aboriginal sites and burial grounds at takina/Port Dalrymple and kinimathatakinta/George Town and your government's \$10 million four-wheel-drive tracks on ancient burial places in takayna. At the moment, the laws do not protect the destruction of such sacred sites that hold the stories and knowledge and identity of Aboriginal people. Large-scale projects of this magnitude should not be considered before the legislation is finalised. Will you commit to not proceeding with any approvals of these types of developments until the Aboriginal heritage legislation has been finalised and passed?