

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

<b>Outcome:</b>	5	<b>Question No:</b>	168
<b>Program:</b>	5.2		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Heritage Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Kokoda Track – Australian tour companies		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	110 (8/2/10)		

**Senator MCEWAN asked:**

**CHAIR**—What about interaction with Australian based tour companies?

**Mr Shevlin**—We are in very regular communication with everyone now. We have a regular email update that we send around. We also try and meet with the track operators about twice a year now, preferably before the season and at the end of the season to talk about things that are going to be happening and things that will be happening in the following year and how the season actually went. We met last year; I could get you the dates for when the next one is.

**Answers:**

Dates for the next meetings with Kokoda tour operators are 22 March 2010 in Port Moresby and 26 March 2010 in Brisbane.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	5	<b>Question No:</b>	169
<b>Program:</b>	5.2		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Heritage Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Jobs Fund - projects		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	51 (8/2/10)		

**Senator LUDLAM asked:**

**Senator LUDLAM**—Is there anything yet in the public domain or are you able to produce something for us now which would give us a total rundown of all the projects that were funded? If that is on your website, maybe just point us there.

**Mr Shevlin**—I am not sure whether the list of all the funded projects is on the website. I would assume it would be, but we can easily provide it.

**Ms Kruk**—I think it was in the public arena, but take it on notice.

**Mr Shevlin**—We could easily provide you with a list of all the projects.

**Answers:**

All projects are listed on the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts website, at <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/programs/jobs-fund/funded-projects.html>.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	5	<b>Question No:</b>	170
<b>Program:</b>	5.2		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Heritage Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	National Trust funding		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	52 (8/2/10)		

**Senator LUDLAM asked:**

**Senator LUDLAM**—Is the amount that the Commonwealth funds collectively, no matter how it may be allocated, proposed to go up, down or sideways?

**Mr Hooy**—The collective amount is a matter for the budget. It is a matter for government.

**Mr Shevlin**—As I said, it has over the last few years been slightly increasing.

**Senator LUDLAM**—There is no expectation that is going to suddenly fall or anything? I am trying to squash rumours here on your behalf.

**Mr Shevlin**—We obviously do not control the budget process.

**Senator LUDLAM**—The minister is studiously doing something different. Is that something I could ask you to take away?

**Senator Conroy**—I will happily take that on notice and seek an answer for you.

**Answers:**

An allocation of funds for the Australian Council of National Trusts, through the National Trusts Partnership Program, is identified annually. This allocation is determined through the budget process.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	5	<b>Question No:</b>	171
<b>Program:</b>	5.2		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Heritage Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	World Heritage nomination – Cape York		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	118 (8/2/10)		

**Senator BOSWELL asked:**

**Senator BOSWELL**—What groups have you consulted?

**Mr Tucker**—We can take on notice all the ones that we have consulted. When I was up there we talked to the Cape York Land Council.

...

**Senator BOSWELL**—Which groups—Aboriginal councils?

**Mr Tucker**—Aboriginal councils, yes.

**Senator BOSWELL**—Could you tell us which ones?

**Answer:**

Officials from the Department have met representatives of the Cape York Land Council, Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation and the Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership. Consultations with Indigenous representatives on the World Heritage proposal have also occurred through advisory committees established under Queensland's *Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007*. Extensive Indigenous and community engagement is recognised as an essential element of any further consideration of a potential World Heritage nomination for Cape York Peninsula.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	5	<b>Question No:</b>	172
<b>Program:</b>	5.2		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Heritage Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Wild Rivers Act		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	122 (8/2/10)		

**Senator BOSWELL asked:**

**Senator BOSWELL**—You have two pieces of legislation. One says we will do this with wild rivers; the other says we will do this with World Heritage. I know you do not want to get into conflict, but I am a great believer in Murphy's Law: the worst thing always happens at the worst possible time. There will possibly be conflict. I am asking which one overrides. The World Heritage, I would understand, would override wild rivers.

**Mr Shevlin**—I am not a lawyer. We would have to take that on notice to get official legal advice on something of that nature.

**Answer:**

Section 109 of the Constitution provides that in the event of inconsistency between a Commonwealth law and a State law, the Commonwealth law prevails, and the State law is invalid to the extent of the inconsistency.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	5	<b>Question No:</b>	173
<b>Program:</b>	5.2		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Heritage Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	World Heritage nomination – Cape York		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	29 (9/2/10)		

**Senator BOSWELL asked:**

**Senator BOSWELL**—No, I said you were a senior minister in the government. Can you give a guarantee to the Indigenous community in North Queensland in the peninsula that you will not go ahead with the tentative list for World Heritage listing without the support of the Aboriginal community?

**Senator Wong**—Senator, I am afraid I am not briefed on this area because this was an outcome for which I was not representing the minister. I apologise, Senator. I had my own estimates, as you know, yesterday, and representing the Attorney-General. I would have to take advice from the department about the extent of community consultation. I understood the evidence previously went to that issue. If necessary, I will take those issues on notice. I am not trying to be difficult, Senator; I am simply not briefed.

**Answer:**

Yes.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	5	<b>Question No:</b>	174
<b>Program:</b>	5.2		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Heritage Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	UNESCO listing for the Kokoda Track		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator KROGER asked:**

1. Where is the government at with UNESCO listing for the Kokoda Track?
2. How is this being prioritised by the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts?
3. If a listing request has been made, when will UNESCO report?
4. Does this project have greater priority than the list of Ningaloo Reef?

**Answers:**

1. Any decision on nominating the Owen Stanley Ranges (including the Kokoda Track) to the UNESCO World Heritage List is entirely the responsibility of the Government of Papua New Guinea (PNG).
2. At the request of the PNG Government, and in accordance with the PNG-Australia Joint Understanding, signed by both governments in 2008, the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts is assisting PNG to develop a feasibility study for a possible future World Heritage nomination of the Kokoda Track and Owen Stanley Ranges.
3. No listing request has been made.
4. The responsibility for determining the priority for nominating any part of PNG for World Heritage listing is solely a matter for the Government of PNG.

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<b>Outcome:</b>	5	<b>Question No:</b>	196
<b>Program:</b>	5.2		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Policy Coordination Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Climate Change Adaptation – World Heritage Areas		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:**

What action has been taken in regard to the following 2007 Labor election commitment:

- Fast track Climate Change Adaptation Plan for Australia's World Heritage and iconic areas.

**Answer:**

A final draft of the Climate Change Adaptation Plan for Australia's World Heritage & Iconic Areas is being developed in preparation for implementation during 2010.