REVIEW OF AAPA UNDERWAY

28 November 2013

Minister for Community Services Bess Price said she has no plans to sack the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) board.

“This is another hysterical beat up by the Opposition devoid of facts and ideas,” Mrs Price said.

“The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority is known for its capacity to negotiate outcomes in situations where development and sacred sites coincide.

“The facts are that the former Minister for Regional Development initiated a reform process through consultation to identify minor legislative amendments to the Sacred Sites Act to be put forward for Cabinet consideration.

“I have no role in the review, and am waiting on the report to be provided to me.

“I want to ensure the Sacred Sites Act places an emphasis on achieving a balance between preservation and enhancement of Aboriginal cultural tradition and the aspirations of all Territorians for their individual economic, cultural and social advancement.

“The current structure of the authority supports this process, but I think there could be further efficiencies to benefit the authority and its stakeholders.

“I am keen to see the report before any decisions are made.

“I have been advised the report is currently being prepared by AAPA, and as part of that process, the chief executive briefed the board yesterday on some of the proposed changes.”

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