



PARLIAMENT
OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS



PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO. 34

Answered on 1 October 2026

Second Meeting 2026-2027 Session – Second Sitting

**PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION
ASKED BY**

**HON. KENNETH V. BRYAN
DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, ELECTED MEMBER FOR THE
CONSTITUENCY OF GEORGE TOWN CENTRAL**

TO

**HON. KATHERINE EBANKS-WILKS
MINISTER OF HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY**

QUESTION:

Can the Honourable Minister provide an update on the application process for Little Cayman's UNESCO World Heritage designation, including:

- (a) the current status of technical work and stakeholder consultations being conducted by the Department of Environment;
- (b) whether the scope of the proposed designation remains limited to the Marine Protected Areas or is being expanded to include key terrestrial sites such as the Booby Pond Nature Reserve; and
- (c) the updated timeline and milestone target dates for submitting the final nomination dossier to the UK's Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) ahead of UNESCO's formal review?

ANSWER:

Mister Speaker, I am pleased to share that earlier last month; Cabinet approved the submission of a Preliminary Assessment for the proposed nomination of Little Cayman's Marine Protected Areas only. At this stage, the technical work is primarily focused on the Preliminary Assessment process itself, with stakeholder engagement already commenced and will continue throughout the nomination process.

Mr. Speaker, at this stage, the proposed designation included within the Preliminary Assessment remains limited to the Marine Protected Areas. No decision has been made to include additional sites in that nomination.

Mr. Speaker, now that the Preliminary Assessment has been submitted, the next phase will be the review period, which is approximately two years. Contingent upon a favourable outcome, the deadline for submitting the nomination dossier is October 2028. If the application is ultimately successful, the anticipated date for achieving Inscription on the World Heritage List would be July 2030.

Thank you, Mister Speaker.