

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT — MAP VIEWER

368. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:

Can I take the minister back to the question I asked? As he has had five years to prepare for the commencement of the act, why is there inaccurate and incomplete information on the map viewer that will be required to assist landowners meet their obligations under this hastily introduced act?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Dr A.D. BUTI replied:

It is quite amazing, is it not, that the member who voted —

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

Dr A.D. BUTI: The member seems to conflate the act with the regulations. The act was passed in November 2021, which she fully supported. She said yesterday it was a great piece of legislation. She said yesterday we are all supportive of protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Ms M.J. Davies: Correct!

Several members interjected.

Dr A.D. BUTI: Correct! Then we have had —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please.

Dr A.D. BUTI: Then we had a year of consultation and the co-design, plus the Farmers Federation was invited to be on the activities working group. Their members appeared for one meeting and not the others. Warren Pearce was there. People from the mining industry were there. We wondered why the farmers were not there. Part of the reason farmers probably were not there is that they know that the new act will not affect them to the extent that this lot over there, the *F Troop* of WA politics, have decided that they will be. I do not know who is Agarn and who is Vanderbilt; it might be the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr R.S. Love: All land users will be affected.

Dr A.D. BUTI: As they are now.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Dr A.D. BUTI: Opposition members seem to not understand that since 1972, we have had the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage. As was stated repeatedly yesterday, there are now more exemptions. Currently, no land size is exempted. Under the new legislation, there will be exemptions. Shame on the Leader of the Liberal Party and her colleagues! She was called out by the member for Kimberley in her great contribution to the matter of public interest yesterday about the division that Hon Neil Thomson is trying to create. Shame on him! He went on Channel Seven —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order please.

Point of Order

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Under section 78 of the standing orders, “Answers to be relevant”, the member for Central Wheatbelt asked a question about the map viewer. The minister has totally strayed off the subject.

The SPEAKER: Member, I think you are trying to enter into the debate. The minister is entitled to answer the question as he sees fit, and I regard his answer as being relevant. I ask the minister to draw it to a conclusion since it is an answer to a supplementary question.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Dr A.D. BUTI: I will conclude, Madam Speaker.

Shame on Hon Neil Thomson, egged on by his leader, for trying to create division and by saying that residential property owners will be in fear of this legislation. Shame on you. You know that is not true.

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

Dr A.D. BUTI: Shame on you!