

ABORIGINAL HERITAGE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT AND REPEAL BILL 2023 —
TWO-BILL SPLIT

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

I refer to the Aboriginal Heritage Legislation Amendment and Repeal Bill 2023, the regulations that are yet to be released and the misleading statements by members of his government, including the member for Swan Hills, that the opposition is delaying progress of this bill. Will the government split the bill to repeal the failed 2021 act as soon as possible and progress the development of the amendments and regulations for the 1972 act separately to ensure that there are no unintended consequences for all stakeholders and industry?

Dr A.D. BUTI replied:

As members know, I read the bill into the house a few weeks ago. We intend to bring that bill back on for debate next week. As the member knows, as I think that she has contacted my office, the draft regulations will be released very shortly. In debate last week, the Premier said that members will get the regulations before we recommence debate on the bill. The member will get them very shortly and she will be offered a briefing.

In respect of this whole issue about members saying and not saying something, the Liberal Party's Hon Nick Goiran, the leader of "The Clan", said on 1 September that the Cook Labor government has "refused to bring on the repeal bill for even one minute of debate in Parliament's lower house". Members opposite have told us that they do not want to debate the bill until the regulations are ready. That is why we have held off on recommencing debate on the bill because we promised members opposite —

Ms M.J. Davies: Where are the regulations?

Dr A.D. BUTI: This is really quite interesting.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Dr A.D. BUTI: The member is misleading, because she knows; she rang my office.

Ms M.J. Davies: And got no answers. Where are they?

Dr A.D. BUTI: That is —

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Central Wheatbelt, your side will likely have fewer questions at this rate because I will want to move on to the matter of public interest at three o'clock, so consider your interjections.

Dr A.D. BUTI: I do not want to say a certain word that is unparliamentary. It was either the member for Central Wheatbelt or the Leader of the Opposition, Shane Love, who contacted my office and said that it would be too late to have the briefing next week and was told that they would get a briefing sooner—most likely Friday. I think you were told that, Leader of the Opposition.

Anyway, members opposite will receive the regulations very shortly. They will have a chance to consult on them and we will recommence debate next week. They asked to have the regulations before debate recommenced, and they will have them.