

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT — VOICE REFERENDUM

402. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:

I refer to the Premier's comments yesterday reported as —

“So if people are interpreting the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act changes as part of a No vote in the Voice campaign, well that's very concerning.”

- (1) Why is the Premier unaware of the impact the shambolic introduction of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act is having on community sentiment towards the Voice?
- (2) What is the Premier doing —

Ms J.J. Shaw interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please, member for Swan Hills.

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Do you want to ask me that again?

Mr D.J. Kelly: I thought you were in favour of the yes vote.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I am. That is why I am asking the question, because your government is stuffing it up.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bassendean, I ask you to desist, please.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I ask —

- (2) What is the Premier doing about these concerns now that he is aware of them?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

- (1)–(2) Madam Speaker, I am not quite sure why any representative of the Liberal Party or Nationals WA really cares about how this impacts the Voice referendum. We know that all members opposite oppose it, the member for Vasse most of all. She says, on one hand, that she supports it, but then, all of a sudden, when it comes to the Liberals for the yes vote, she is missing in action. I have noticed that the member for Vasse has gone very quiet on this issue of late. Whenever her political party makes an opportunity for the member to support it, she is not there. I notice of late that the member's positive comments in support of the yes vote have almost disappeared. The government supports the yes vote. With the federal government and every state government in Australia, we support the yes vote. With every major sporting code and every major corporation in Australia, we support the yes vote. We believe that it is appropriate and fair that Aboriginal people should be recognised and consulted on decisions that impact them. That is all it is asking. It will not take from anyone. It will actually add to the rich culture of Australia.

I am not trying to conflate the issue of the yes vote for the Voice with the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act. I notice in questions in the other place today Hon Nick Goiran is doing that and now I notice that the member for Central Wheatbelt, in concert with him, is doing the same, and that is concerning. That is the issue that is concerning me. It is important to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage with simple, fair laws that allow people to continue to undertake their lives in the way they always have, with like-for-like activities. That is straightforward. What is also straightforward is giving Aboriginal people a voice. That is why we support it and I think it is time that you guys stood up and supported it too.