

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT — REGULATIONS

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

I have a supplementary question. Thank you, minister. At what point will the regulations be released so that the stakeholders the minister is talking to on a regular basis, as he says, can actually prepare themselves for the commencement of the act, as has been raised by stakeholders with me?

Dr A.D. BUTI replied:

It is interesting that the year before last, when the member was the Leader of the Opposition, I do not think she engaged in the debate on the bill at all.

The regulations will be published shortly and it has been a co-design process. The various interest groups know the details of a lot —

Ms M.J. Davies: That is not what they are saying to us.

Dr A.D. BUTI: You have not been involved at all. You were not involved in the debate in Parliament. You are a Johnny-come-lately on this issue, so do not now try to become the expert because a few people have contacted your office. I can tell you now that there has been extensive consultation.

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Dr A.D. BUTI: You are incredibly rude.

Ms M.J. Davies: Well, you are, too.

Dr A.D. BUTI: You are incredibly rude when I am answering your question.

Ms M.J. Davies: You're not!

Dr A.D. BUTI: You would not know. You would not even know what is in the act.

The SPEAKER: Minister, if you could just pause for a moment. This is a supplementary question. Member, I am going to ask you not to continue to interject. Minister, could you conclude your answer shortly.

Dr A.D. BUTI: You would not even know what is in the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act. Am I right? Do you know the details? May I also remind the house that it was your government when you were in cabinet that sought to bring in legislation that affected Aboriginal people without even consulting them. Do not talk to me about consultation. Shame on you. You are a Johnny-come-lately and I do not think your questions have any merit or validity. You do not even know what is in the act.