

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT — PREMIER’S COMMENTS

The SPEAKER: I am just waiting for order.

The Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party.

Dr D.J. HONEY: Not quite.

The SPEAKER: Sorry, the member for Cottesloe.

468. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Premier:

That’s it! Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I refer to some of the Premier’s comments in Parliament when responding to genuine concerns about Labor’s Aboriginal cultural heritage laws.

- (1) Following his apology to people affected by the bungled implementation of the new act, why will the Premier not also apologise to the opposition for likening us to a dog returning to its vomit?
- (2) Why will the Premier also not call on the member for Belmont to apologise for calling us racists?

Ms M.M. Quirk: It’s actually from the Bible!

The SPEAKER: Member for Landsdale!

Ms M.M. Quirk: It’s Proverbs 26.

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

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I thank the member for the question. Obviously, we undertook in government to make sure that we listen to the community, hear their voices and respond when necessary, and that is what we have done. This is a commitment that I made when I became Premier, and yesterday I delivered on that commitment. We will continue to make sure that we govern for all Western Australians and do the right thing on behalf of the community. That is why we took a tough decision. It was a difficult decision, but it was the right decision made for the right reasons.

In relation to biblical references, I am not in a position to assist the member, but I will just say that I think it is important that we put on record every time we come to this place that it is only a WA Labor government that will stand up for those who are doing it tough in the community. It is only a WA Labor government that will stand up for the most disadvantaged in our community, whether they be workers, whether they be the mob or whether they be new Australians. It is only a WA Labor government that will do the right thing by marginal people in the community and will continue to do so.

Ms M.M. Quirk: “So a fool returns to his folly” is the rest of the quote.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Thank you, “Sister Margaret”!

The SPEAKER: I am just hoping that is your last interjection, member for Landsdale, and I am hoping that is the last response from the Leader of the House.