

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT — LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PETITION

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

I have a supplementary question. Why does the Premier not have the decency to apologise for his offensive slurs and those of his members, including today, directed to those Western Australians concerned about the new laws?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please.

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I have said that I understand fully the concerns that people have. I have always said that the government will do everything it can to answer people's questions. Day in and day out, we have made sure that people understand that these laws are a modern version of the existing laws that have been in place since 1972, and we will continue to do that. I have not sought to insult people who have these concerns; I have simply asked people to be patient and make sure that they take the opportunity to be informed. That is what people are doing. Whether it is in Esperance, Geraldton, Merredin or Kalgoorlie, people are taking the opportunity to turn up to these sessions, ask questions, get answers and make sure that they avail themselves of the facts of the matter. Those opposite would be well advised to equip themselves with the facts of the matter so that they might reconsider the positions that they have taken in this place.