

NATIVE TITLE - PERTH METROPOLITAN AREA

699. Mr P.D. OMODEI to the Deputy Premier:

I ask a supplementary question: if that is the case and the Deputy Premier is right, why now more than 10 years since the Mabo decision is Labor turning its back on the Nyoongah people and lodging an appeal against Justice Wilcox's decision? It cannot have it both ways.

Mr E.S. RIPPER replied:

Labor is not turning its back on the Nyoongah people. The Nyoongah people are the traditional owners of the south west of Western Australia. Everyone knows that. The question that the court has to look at is whether that traditional ownership is to be recognised by Australian law.

Mr P.D. Omodei interjected.

Mr C.J. Barnett interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Cottesloe to order.

Mr E.S. RIPPER: It is pretty hard to stand on this side of the house and hear members on the other side talk about a commitment to native title. We sat in this house day after day while Richard Court shamefully and divisibly used native title for his opportunistic political advantage. I hope that some people on the other side of the house were ashamed of what Richard Court did at the time. We will not have that approach.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Cottesloe to order for the third time.