ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT — IMPLEMENTATION

406.   Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Premier, that was not the feedback I received in Esperance last week —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member, pause for a moment. If you are going to enter debate rather than ask a supplementary, I will sit you down. Ask a supplementary, please.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Can I confirm that the Premier believes that the agriculture sector, the pastoral sector, the property sector and community groups, as well Aboriginal groups, are all wrong when it comes to their belief that more time is required before the act is implemented?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I notice that the member opposite just dropped off the mining industry from his supplementary question. I think he realised that: "I'm on some pretty shaky ground here; I had better just modify it by supplementary." I acknowledge that there are levels of concern in the community, which is why we are working hard in collaboration with all members of the community and industry groups to ensure that we answer their questions. I understand that people are concerned: "If I have a development application that has been approved, do I have to now go back and reapply?" No, they do not. I understand that people say, "I didn't graze sheep on this paddock last year, but can I graze them this year, and even though I've grazed them on that paddock before, do I have to apply?" No, they do not. I understand when people say, "I've got a five-acre block with my house on it and I want to put in a swimming pool; do I have to apply?" No, they do not. These are all concerns that people raise, because they think about what the future will look like. That is why we are working collaboratively with every member of the community and with every industry group to answer their questions and to ensure that on 1 July we have a smooth implementation of these new laws.