

NATIVE TITLE - PERTH METROPOLITAN AREA

690. Mr P.D. OMODEI to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs:

I refer to the recent decision in the Federal Court by Justice Wilcox in relation to the native title determination over the lands of the Perth metropolitan area. Does the minister support the Premier's proposal to fight the decision in the courts; or will the minister support the Nyoongah people as Minister for Indigenous Affairs?

Ms S.M. McHALE replied:

I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. I would like to make three points. Firstly, this government, and I personally, acknowledge the Nyoongah people as the traditional owners of this land. Wherever we go we are invited to their land, and I welcome that. Secondly, this government, and every member of this government, is committed to the principles of native title. The decision that this government has to make as to whether we will appeal the decision has not yet been made. We will be considering the decision of Justice Wilcox in detail to determine whether, in the broad interest of this state, and, indeed, in the broad interest of the Nyoongah people and all Western Australians, an appeal needs to be made.