

**WITTENOOM CLOSURE BILL 2021**

*Statement*

**HON MARTIN PRITCHARD (North Metropolitan)** [6.50 pm]: I was not going to make a private member's statement but I want to thank Hon Wilson Tucker for highlighting the fact that people in this chamber can change their mind occasionally. I assure him that the work of Melita Markey and her parents and the devastating situation of Wittenoom are probably well known to everybody in the chamber. I remember once going to that town and the most horrific thing I saw was that the children's playground had been matted out with blue asbestos. The whole town is completely covered with it. It is a tragedy that grown men and women worked in the mine, but it is a bigger tragedy that they unknowingly exposed their children to asbestos. I, for one, am very pleased that the town will be closed. If a memorial is required, I hope that it is not in Wittenoom because everything needs to be done to make sure that nobody goes to that place to see a memorial or the old buildings. It needs to be scraped from the earth and, as I said, if a memorial is required, it needs to be well away from that site.

*House adjourned at 6.52 pm*

---