

ABORIGINAL CEREMONIES — COMMENTS BY BARRY COURT

**530. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs:**

Does the minister support the comments attributed to outgoing Western Australian Liberal Party state president Barry Court that the Aboriginal flag and welcome to country ceremonies are unnecessary?

**Hon PETER COLLIER replied:**

Thank you, Mr President.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order. The minister can answer it in his own way, but if it does not relate to his portfolio —

**Hon Ken Travers:** Yes, it does.

**Hon Sally Talbot:** He's the Minister for Indigenous Affairs!

**The PRESIDENT:** — then of course that is an issue for him. It relates to standing order 140(b)(i), which states —

- (a) Questions shall not:
  - (i) seek an expression of opinion or a legal opinion;

Having said that, the minister is at liberty to provide an answer within those constraints.

**Hon PETER COLLIER:** Thank you, Mr President.

I thank the honourable member for the question. Can I just say at the outset that the Liberal Party often brings up some very interesting policy debates, and it is always a good weekend. As far as this issue is concerned, it will be debated on the day. With regard to the specific question, no.