

WITTENOOM

Statement

HON MARTIN PRITCHARD (North Metropolitan) [10.22 pm]: Sorry to keep everybody; I know it is late. I wanted to genuinely thank Hon Lorna Harper for raising Wittenoom. I wanted to make a couple of quick comments because there is not much time. I noticed that the Asbestos Diseases Society of Australia Inc has raised and is spending good money to publicise the fact and discourage people from going to Wittenoom, which is very, very important. I think it is something that this government should also discourage. I encourage my own government to maybe put some money into that.

On a personal note, I had the opportunity to go to Wittenoom—I wish I had not—many years ago. What really struck me and made me the saddest was when I got out of my car and walked over to see a children's play area, remarking to my wife how soft the ground was because it was coated thickly with blue asbestos. That town is a deathtrap and needs to be wiped from the Western Australian earth. We certainly need to put in every effort to discourage people from going there because it is not a tourist attraction in any way, shape or form. It may be surrounded by a tourist attraction but it is not a tourist attraction. I want to genuinely thank the honourable member for raising it. It was very well done.

House adjourned at 10.24 pm
