

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT — PETITION

448. Ms L. METTAM to the Premier:

I refer to the Premier's spectacular backflip on Labor's Aboriginal cultural heritage laws.

- (1) Does the Premier regret rubbishing the petition that called for a six-month delay as just an e-petition?
- (2) Does the Premier regret not listening to the almost 30 000 Western Australians who signed this petition until he was pressured by Canberra?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please, members! I am just waiting for order, please. Premier.

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

- (1)–(2) One thing we notice is that we have questions from the Leader of the Opposition that we do not agree with but which we respect and acknowledge are truthful; then we have questions from the member for Vasse that we neither respect nor believe are based on fact. In this case, it is very much the same.

I have never rubbished anyone who has petitioned this Parliament; that is not the case. If members want an example of a Premier who listens to the people, it is on display today. That is precisely what we have done. We have done that in the interests of governing for all Western Australians.

We accept that we got it wrong and we apologised to the people of Western Australia. That process would have been a complete anathema to members opposite when they were in government. We believe in serving on behalf of the people of Western Australia and we have listened to them and acted accordingly.

In the final phrases of the falsehoods that came from the member for Vasse in her question this afternoon, the member said that we were pressured by Canberra. We were not.