

REMOTE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES — CLOSURE

**201. Mr M. McGOWAN to the Premier:**

I have a supplementary question. Just to confirm, when the Premier advised the rally this morning that no Aboriginal people will be forced from their communities, what he meant was that people could remain living in the houses and the communities, some of which they lived in for thousands of years, but without —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Joondalup, I call you to order now for the third time.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** But they would be without essential services, such as power, water, schooling and child protection and police services. Is that correct?

**Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:**

The reality is —

**Ms M.M. Quirk** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Girrawheen, I call you to order for the second time.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** It is easy to say the nice things. It is not easy to say the truth and the reality.

**Mr W.J. Johnston** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Cannington, I call you to order for the first time.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** We will progressively work with those communities and some of them, probably a significant number, will not be viable in providing the level of protection, care, health and education for the people there. There are many good Aboriginal communities that do not have these problems.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Cockburn, I call you to order for the first time. Member for Pilbara, I call you to order for the first time. Can you just wind it up please, Premier?

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** If members can indulge me for a few seconds. At the end of the year, we go around and talk to our school principals. I talked to a school principal and he had come from a remote community. He said that when he went to the school there, little girls were coming in and sleeping through the day. He did not know what was going on, but he got beanbags in his office and let these little kids, as young as five years old, sleep in his office all day. He was new; he had no experience with an Aboriginal community. He told me a story —

Several members interjected.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** Members opposite do not like to hear this, do they?

**Mr B.S. Wyatt** interjected.

*Suspension of Member*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Victoria Park, will you please leave the chamber. I have called you to order now four times. Thank you.

[The member for Victoria Park left the chamber.]

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** I conclude with this —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members! Member for Cannington, member for Kwinana and member for Mandurah, that concludes question time.

**Ms R. Saffioti:** Racist!

*Withdrawal of Remark*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for West Swan, I want you to withdraw that comment.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** I withdraw.

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** I refer to the same comment from the member.

**The SPEAKER:** That has been withdrawn, and that is the end of question time.