

ABORIGINES AT PLATT'S ESTATE

A.L.P. Council Asks That They Remain

Waratah Electoral Council of the A.L.P. decided yesterday to ask the Minister of Lands not to remove the aborigines who had come to Platt's Estate, Waratah, from the North Coast. The Minister will be asked, however, to discourage settlement in the locality of other aborigines by refusing permissive occupancies.

The Chairman (Mr. M. Fitzgerald) said the aborigines should be allowed to stay on the estate only until provision could be made for them elsewhere.

Mr. M. Reynolds, delegate from Waratah West (Platt's Estate) branch, defended the ways of life of the blacks on the estate. There were six families of them, and all the men were in employment, he said. One next door to him was a "white man." The Chief Health Inspector (Mr. Meddows) had reported that the conditions under which they were living were abominable, but he had not investigated any of their places. He simply drove his car through the estate.

"In reporting the presence of a blacks' camp close to a populated area, Mr. Meddows was doing his job," said the Chairman. "Now, when the number is small, is the time for action, not in a few years when the presence of a large number would present a big problem. Nobody can defend a blacks' camp close to a populated residential area. Back in the bush is the place for blacks. There is no need for me to say what happens to blacks who come into close contact with whites. There remains a lot of work for the Government to do in protecting what remain of the aborigines."

"There is no need for Mr. Meddows to go to Platt's Estate for things concerned with health," said Mr. R. Gascoine. "In Waratah-road is a house that has been up only three years, and the sewer there cannot be used every time it rains."

The President's attitude was supported by Mr. R. Evans.