

MINISTER CALLS FOR REPORT

Blacks On Platt's Estate

The Minister for Lands (Mr. Tully) had called for a report by the District Surveyor, Mr. R. Cameron, M.L.A., told Waratah Electoral Council of the A.L.P. regarding a request that aborigines settled on Platt's Estate, Waratah, should not be disturbed, but that no more permissive occupancies should be granted.

Ald. R. Higgins said there were no aborigines on the estate. "They are half-castes and a very decent type of people, too," he said. "Why pick on them? People seem to have the idea that they are a mob of wild Myall blacks. They are law-abiding people who keep themselves decently clad."

Ald. Higgins suggested that the council could also ask that no more permissive occupancies be granted for white people to live on the area.

Mr. R. Evans said the council simply did not want to encourage the settlement of blacks in the district.

"Mr. Meddows acts from the angle of public health, and that is a most important thing," said Mr. J. M. Flanagan. If there were ideas to throw the dark people off the estate, let the question of properly housing them be taken into account, he added.

Hunter A.L.P. Request

Following a report to Hunter Federal Council of the A.L.P. at West Maitland, it was decided to request Greater Newcastle Council not to interfere with aborigines on Platt's Estate "while they conformed to the standards of decency and did not infringe the council's health requirements."