

ANIMAL WELFARE — GREYHOUND RACING INDUSTRY

479. Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE to the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to bring an end to the cruel and abhorrent practice of puppy farming and note the legislation includes the de-muzzling of greyhounds. Can the minister outline to the house how this government's legislation to bring an end to puppy farming will support those people who wish to adopt or rehome a greyhound?

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

I thank the member for his question and his well-known love for dogs and advocacy for the welfare of dogs. I am worried about the Western Australian Liberal Party. I am seriously worried about where it is going and its intentions. It would appear that it has become so bereft of direction and leadership that it has now chosen to adopt —

Point of Order

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: The member for Thornlie asked the minister a question about greyhounds, in particular the muzzling of greyhounds. I am curious about how this has anything at all to do with the Liberal Party.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Mr Speaker —

The SPEAKER: No, I have not ruled on it yet. Give him a chance to spread it out a bit. I would like to muzzle some people in the chamber, but I cannot!

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr P. PAPALIA: As I was saying, I am worried about the Western Australian Liberal Party. It is so bereft of leadership and direction that it now appears to have adopted the mindset of opposing everything for opposition's sake, to the extent —

Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup interjected.

The SPEAKER: Calm down!

Mr P. PAPALIA: — that it has chosen to advocate on behalf of cruelty to animals as a policy direction.

Withdrawal of Remark

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: The imputation is that somehow the Liberal Party supports cruelty to animals. That is not the case. I ask him to withdraw.

The SPEAKER: It is not a point of order. Do not keep making points of order or I will call you to order.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr P. PAPALIA: The question was about the Liberal Party's support or lack thereof of the puppy farming bill, which is entirely focused on ending cruelty to dogs, ending cruelty to animals—to ending cruelty to puppies! In opposing the Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Bill, the Liberal Party of Western Australia is clearly, irrefutably and undeniably advocating cruelty to animals. It is an extraordinary position. We did not get here by accident. This process has been championed by the member for Maylands for years. She began in 2015 when she established and convened a steering committee, which comprised people from all over not just Western Australia but the world, who are advocates for better quality standards for animal welfare. That led to the Labor Party declaring early during the election campaign that it would commit to legislation to counter puppy farming. We have now delivered on that legislation. There were years of consultation.

Point of Order

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: Just one final point of order.

The SPEAKER: No, it just has to be a point of order.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I am curious about how this relates to the minister's portfolio. The legislation is the responsibility of the Minister for Local Government, not the Minister for Racing and Gaming.

Ms L.L. Baker interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Maylands, I call you to order for the first time. It is a point of order and you of all people should know. Double zip—or muzzle!

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I am curious about how this relates to the minister's portfolio, given that it covers racing and wagering in Western Australia.

The SPEAKER: It is about animals and I think racing and wagering is also about animals. It is not a point of order.

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: I understand and appreciate that response, Mr Speaker, but he is specifically referencing —
Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Just wait, will you!

Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP: The minister is not responsible for the legislation he is referencing and it is not relevant during this question time.

The SPEAKER: It is not a point of order.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr P. PAPALIA: It is extraordinary that the Liberal Party of Western Australia would advocate for animal cruelty as opposed to supporting legislation to prevent it.

With respect to the greyhound industry, the intended outcome, should the bill pass, is to remove the requirement that greyhounds have to be muzzled in public, and that is absolutely central to my portfolio. I have ministerial responsibility for greyhound racing in Western Australia. Tens of thousands of Western Australians support removing the requirement that greyhounds be muzzled in public. The Liberal Party is opposing that measure. The Liberal Party supports continuing the requirement that greyhounds be muzzled in public, against the wishes of tens of thousands of dog lovers across Western Australia. The Liberal Party is also advocating for an environment that supports animal cruelty through supporting puppy farming. I do not understand why the Liberal Party is doing that. It is an extraordinary position to take. If the Liberal Party opposes the bill, we will not be able to remove the requirement that greyhounds be muzzled in public. They will still be required to be on a leash. It is absolutely safe for them to be allowed in public without a muzzle. I sought advice from the chief executive officer of Racing and Wagering Western Australia about that very matter. The racing industry is very comfortable that leashed dogs are quite safe, and tens of thousands of Western Australians are also very comfortable with that requirement. They will be appalled to hear that the Western Australian Liberal Party lacks the direction to support such a basic fundamental objective as protecting puppies.