

GREYHOUND RACING INDUSTRY — ADOPTION

**36. Hon LYNN MacLAREN to the Minister for Racing and Gaming:**

- (1) Is the minister aware of reports that there is a sudden increase in greyhounds used in the racing industry being offered to an adoption agency in Western Australia?
- (2) Can the minister provide any details of this?
- (3) Is it of some concern to the minister and to the department that these greyhounds may have been trained by live baiting and that the increased scrutiny on the racing industry would uncover this fact?
- (4) Will the minister order an investigation to identify and suspend from racing in Western Australia —
  - (a) any greyhounds racing that have been trained with live baits anywhere in Australia; and
  - (b) any trainers or owners implicated in the live baiting investigations in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland?

**Hon COL HOLT replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

- (1) I am aware of media reports regarding retired greyhounds being offered to an adoption agency in Western Australia.
- (2) Racing and Wagering Western Australia is working to substantiate these claims. At this point in time there is no evidence to support them.
- (3) At this stage Racing and Wagering Western Australia has no evidence that the number of greyhounds offered to the adoption agency is as a consequence of the live baiting issue in the eastern states. However, a person responsible for any greyhound is required to lodge notification of its retirement with Racing and Wagering Western Australia within 10 days of such retirement.
- (4) The matters alleged to have occurred in other jurisdictions are currently being investigated with a view to prosecution by the controlling authorities in those jurisdictions. Persons or greyhounds suspended by the controlling authorities in the eastern states are automatically suspended in Western Australia. I informed the house yesterday that Racing and Wagering Western Australia is the statutory body charged with the function to control, regulate and supervise racing in Western Australia. If there is any evidence of malpractice occurring in Western Australia, I expect Racing and Wagering will conduct a thorough investigation.