

THOROUGHBRED RACING COMMITTEE — RESIGNATIONS

249. Mr V.A. CATANIA to the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

I refer to the resignation of five members of the Thoroughbred Racing Committee.

- (1) What reasons were given for the sudden mass resignation?
- (2) What action is the minister taking to address this concerning development?

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(2) I met with the TRC yesterday—the people to whom the member refers—to seek their advice about any concerns they had at that meeting. They indicated that some of them were contemplating resigning. As the member is aware, this is not a body that reports to me. It is involved with operational matters of Racing and Wagering Western Australia and is a consultative body for the thoroughbred code that reports to RWWA. It replicates the role of the eligible bodies in many respects. It was created by RWWA recently as a means of garnering views from the industry, particularly the thoroughbred industry in this case, with a view to determine whether it wanted to sell the TAB and then to consult during that process. That is why the TRC was convened. However, there are eligible bodies such as the Country Racing Association of Western Australia, provincial racing clubs, Perth Racing, and owners, breeders, trainers, bookies and jockey associations that can be consulted by RWWA to seek the views of the industry. The TRC is duplicating that role.

As to why the members are going, I cannot tell the member. It is probably related to the action by Perth Racing only yesterday in withdrawing its vote of confidence in one of the members of the Thoroughbred Racing Committee and then deciding that rather than be a part of that committee, it would prefer to not replace that person and just use its status as an eligible body for consulting with RWWA. But I cannot tell the member the exact reasons. I am confident that it does not mean there is any breakdown in the ability for RWWA to consult with the thoroughbred industry. It still has all the eligible bodies. In the event that other eligible bodies choose not to replace their members that have resigned, there is still the ability for RWWA to consult.