

TAB — PRIVATISATION

7. Hon COLIN HOLT to the minister representing the Treasurer:

I refer to the process for the sale of the WA TAB.

- (1) Will a representative or representatives from Racing and Wagering Western Australia play a role in the sales process?
- (2) If yes to (1), who will be the representatives and what role will they play?
- (3) Given that RWWA is a direct competitor of any domestic wagering operator that may submit a bid for the WA TAB, does the government acknowledge a real or perceived conflict of interest?
- (4) If yes to (3), how will this conflict of interest be managed?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

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

- (1) Yes, representatives from Racing and Wagering Western Australia will play a role in the sales process, both in assisting with the current sales preparation phase and as a party to the agreement with the incoming operator to provide ongoing funding to the Western Australian racing industry.
- (2) The board chairman and the chief executive officer of RWWA are members of the steering committee overseeing the project.
- (3)–(4) The state is cognisant of the potential for perceived conflicts of interest arising from the competitive nature of the wagering sector. These concerns are a common feature in complex commercial transactions and these concerns will be addressed by a number of mechanisms. The state will design the sale process to encourage an open and competitive field of potential bidders.