

TAB (DISPOSAL) BILL 2019

Committee

Resumed from 20 August. The Chair of Committees (Hon Simon O'Brien) in the chair; Hon Stephen Dawson (Minister for Environment) in charge of the bill.

Progress was reported after clause 14 had been agreed to.

Clauses 15 to 22 put and passed.

Clause 23: Authorised disclosure of information —

Hon COLIN HOLT: Can the minister please explain more fully the need for this clause and what is meant by “authorised disclosure”?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: Subclauses (1) and (2) limit the remedies that may be sought in relation to the disclosure of information for the purposes of a disposal, and is made by the government, Racing and Wagering Western Australia, a corporate vehicle or a person acting with the authority of any of those bodies. It is necessary to ensure that disclosures for the purposes of the disposal, such as disclosure of information for the purpose of due diligence investigations, do not inadvertently breach statutory provisions or confidentiality agreements.

Hon COLIN HOLT: I understand the need for the release of some confidential and commercial-in-confidence information to arrive at a point of sale or to establish a racing distribution agreement. Is this release of information by RWWA, the government or the Gaming and Wagering Commission of Western Australia restricted to the release of information that they themselves hold in those commercial confidential agreements? I will explain this a bit further. I know that RWWA or the WA TAB have commercial arrangements now with other wagering operators, such as fixed betting agreements—it had one with William Hill and I assume it still has one with it, although it might have had a name change—and a parimutuel with SuperTAB, which is Tabcorp. I understand the need to allow for the release of information that RWWA or the government holds, but does this extend to information that potentially has some sensitivity for the partners in some of those situations?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: I am told, yes, it applies to those parties, too. If RWWA holds the information, it applies to those parties.

Hon COLIN HOLT: What sort of feedback has the government had from those organisations? Let us just say it is William Hill—it may have changed its name or been bought out by another company—which has a commercial relationship with RWWA, as does a competitor in Tabcorp, which has a commercial relationship with RWWA, yet the government is giving RWWA permission to share that information among potential buyers. It seems that there might be some nervousness around the commercial entities that have a partnership and are in competition. They are actually in competition with themselves as well as in competition with RWWA, which is a really complex commercial arrangement. Surely, the government has had some feedback: “We’re a bit nervous about that.” How is the government going to manage that nervousness?

Committee interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.

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Sitting suspended from 4.15 to 4.30 pm