

ASCOT RACECOURSE

**375. Hon SAMANTHA ROWE to the Minister for Racing and Gaming:**

I refer to concerns raised by the racing community in Ascot regarding the future sale of Ascot Racecourse.

- (1) Does the government have plans to sell Ascot Racecourse in this term of government?
- (2) If no to (1), will the minister guarantee that Ascot Racecourse will not be sold during this term of government and that any plan to sell the racecourse will be taken to an election?
- (3) Has the government held discussions with Perth Racing or any other bodies in 2015 about the possible sale of Ascot Racecourse?
- (4) If yes to (3), which bodies and when were such discussions held?

**Hon COL HOLT replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question that is dated 24 March 2015.

- (1)–(2) The Metropolitan Equine Asset Review Taskforce has been established by industry to undertake a review of metropolitan thoroughbred and harness racing and training assets in order to address current and future asset utilisation from an industry and public interest perspective. The task force is conducting an assessment with a view to delivering key findings into the ongoing capability of current assets; the future requirements of each code for racing and training; and the optimal mix of facilities to service the industry into the next two decades. The final report is expected to be delivered with recommendations to be considered by the government in the latter half of 2015.
- (3)–(4) As Minister for Racing and Gaming I have not discussed the possible sale of Ascot Racecourse with Perth Racing; however, I have discussed Ascot Racecourse with Racing and Wagering Western Australia as part of a general briefing on a range of issues in January 2015. As I said, this question came in about a month ago; I have actually since met with the chairman of Perth Racing.