

Division 37: Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries — Service 2, Citizenship and Multicultural Interests; Service 4, Racing and Gaming, \$96 389 000 —

Ms S.E. Winton, Chair.

Mr P. Papalia, Minister for Racing and Gaming; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests.

Mr D.S. Ord, Director General.

Ms S. Sherdiwala, Chief Finance Officer.

Mrs A. Maurice, Senior Policy Adviser.

Mr M. Beecroft, Director, Strategic Regulation.

[Witnesses introduced.]

The CHAIR: This estimates committee will be reported by Hansard. The daily proof *Hansard* will be available tomorrow. The Chair will ensure that as many questions as possible are asked and that both questions and answers are short and to the point. If an adviser needs to answer from the lectern, will they please state their name prior to their answer. The estimates committee's consideration of the estimates will be restricted to discussion of those items for which a vote of money is proposed in the consolidated account. Questions must be clearly related to a page number, item, program or amount in the current division. Members should give these details in preface to their question. If a division or service is the responsibility of more than one minister, a minister shall only be examined in relation to their portfolio responsibilities.

The minister may agree to provide supplementary information to the committee, and I ask the minister to clearly indicate what supplementary information will be provided. I will then allocate a reference number. Supplementary information should be provided to the principal clerk by Friday, 30 October 2020. I caution members that if a minister asks that a matter be put on notice, it is up to the member to lodge that through the online questions system.

I give the call to the member for Churchlands.

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: I refer the minister to the third and fourth points on page 546 of budget paper No 2, volume 2. It relates to the banned drinkers register in the Pilbara and a possible trial in the Kimberley. With regards to the Pilbara banned drinkers register, the budget states that this will commence across the Pilbara region in December 2020. Is this on schedule to commence as stated?

Mr P. PAPALIA: Yes, on 1 December.

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: Can the minister briefly outline how that register will work?

Mr P. PAPALIA: A banned drinkers register trial will essentially comprise a Pilbara-wide application. Every takeaway liquor outlet will be provided with a Scantek device to scan photo ID of anyone purchasing takeaway alcohol. That ID will be remotely compared to a banned drinkers register. In the event that an individual is on the banned drinkers register, they will not be able to buy takeaway alcohol. There are three means of being placed on the register or getting on there. The first is from the director of Liquor Licensing giving someone a prohibition order; the second is the Commissioner of Police giving someone a barring notice; and the third is for someone to voluntarily put themselves on there. The trial will be overseen, assessed and reported on by the University of Western Australia's Public Policy Institute. It is a two-year trial, on completion of which I hope that we will be provided with far more knowledge with respect to the efficiency or the effectiveness or otherwise of this type of initiative.

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: Will there be a midway update on the progress of this trial?

Mr P. PAPALIA: I have undertaken many times in Parliament and outside to respond in the event that there is an early indication that this is a successful or good initiative. Obviously, we are not going to wait around subsequently for two years to realise those benefits in other ways or apply the knowledge that has been accrued through the trial. I have not formally set a date by which we will do a report, but obviously the indication early on is that it is a really great initiative. If it is resulting in a great benefit to the community, we will respond to that.

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: As I said at the start, we are dealing with the third and fourth points, so is there a plan to extend this trial into the Kimberley?

Mr P. PAPALIA: There is an aspiration, yes. We have been engaged closely with the local government zone for the Kimberley, all local governments, all the liquor accords, with police and with all other interested parties across the Kimberley. The zone has indicated that it is willing to contribute financially to funding part of the trial. I had hoped that we would commence a trial of a banned drinkers register coupled with a takeaway alcohol management system across the Kimberley, because that is what the players expressed a desire for. But I wanted to try to achieve concurrent rollout of that trial. It is not going to come to fruition that rapidly because we have more recently learned that the extent of the cost associated with rolling it out across the Kimberley exceeds what the zone has available

to it, but I am working on trying to get funding. Subject to our success in sourcing funding, it is my hope that we get that trial commenced as soon as possible in the future. It will not commence on 1 December, though; I have indicated that we cannot make that time frame.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: I think I floated the banned drinkers register in 2010, but I could not convince the minister at the time.

Mr P. PAPALIA: You have a better minister, now.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: It is a better tool than having a blanket approach and preventing the sale of alcohol for everyone, especially those who drink responsibly. With the register itself, the actual hardware, is the department or the minister providing those funds for it to be rolled out in those Pilbara bottle shops and liquor outlets? Is the department financially providing that support?

[12.40 pm]

Mr P. PAPALIA: The way it works is that Scantek, a Western Australian company, has been engaged to provide support for the hardware, the connectivity and the like, and the software associated with the system. That has been funded by the agency. The local government zones in the Pilbara are funding the UWA analysis and oversight.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: I heard the minister say the local government zones up there. Why would it be asked to fund the hardware when the department has funded it in the Pilbara?

Mr P. PAPALIA: What we announced and committed to, which is what we are doing, is a Pilbara-wide trial. Subsequently, the Kimberley indicated an interest. That was not planned. That was not what we committed to as an election promise. The initiative was from government, by government. We just determined it in response to the critical incidents around child abuse in the Pilbara. That was part of our proposed response. We are doing what we said we would do. The Kimberley is keen and the players are keen to participate, so that is beyond what was planned. I am trying to source funding, but it is not like —

Mr V.A. CATANIA: What is the cost, by the way? I suppose it varies.

Mr P. PAPALIA: It is in excess of \$1 million. It is a lot of money. I am hopeful that we will be able to support the Kimberley, too, but it was not a planned thing. We, as an agency, and me, as the minister, and the government, are trying to stretch to accommodate the Kimberley because of its interest and support and its positive approach to that idea of a trial, which I applaud. But it is not something we had a budget for. The director general did not have a budget for that.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: But I would have thought \$1 million out of a \$1.2 billion surplus is worth getting.

Mr P. PAPALIA: We could say that about anything. There are all sorts of initiatives right across government, but this is something that was not anticipated.

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: I refer the minister to “Racing and Wagering Western Australia” on page 306 of budget paper No 2, volume 1.

Mr P. PAPALIA: This is the racing and gaming component. I was not trying to be obstructionist earlier on. I have a number of different advisers for different elements of the budget and specific parts of the budget relate to specific advisers.

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: That is okay. Can the minister switch out advisers then?

Mr P. PAPALIA: Are we finished on this one?

Mr M. HUGHES: I have a question.

The CHAIR: We are still on division 37.

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: Yes, it is still under division 37, but the minister is —

Mr P. PAPALIA: This is the racing and gaming element.

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: It is the racing and gaming component of it, but it is the same division.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Are we finished on the racing and gaming element? Do members want to move on to racing and wagering?

The CHAIR: We could invite the advisers to step back.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Just for efficiency purposes and to enable a logical —

Mr V.A. CATANIA: Does TAB come under this one that we are currently doing?

Mr P. PAPALIA: That is the other guys. As a logical sequence, which is kind of the normal practice, we move from one to the next. We finish with one, and we can then excuse these advisers and move to the other ones.

Mr Sean L'Estrange; Mr Vincent Catania; Mr Paul Papalia; Mr Matthew Hughes; Chair; Mrs Alyssa Hayden

Mr V.A. CATANIA: We are on board. It is unfortunate that the Chair and the minister were having an argument.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Let us get the other guys in.

The CHAIR: It is still part of division 37.

Mr M. HUGHES: I have a question on this.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: This is opposition time, not dorothy dixer time.

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: We are going to run out of time.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: This is ours.

The CHAIR: I thought we were starting to settle it down. Member for Kalamunda, we will just get the other advisers in.

Mr M. HUGHES: We sit and listen, and it is great that the opposition does it, but I have a small question.

The CHAIR: Member for Kalamunda, it is my call. I am not giving you the call. Can we organise the other advisers?

Mr P. PAPALIA: It is the same division; it is just different agencies. This agency is Racing and Wagering Western Australia, which is not the racing and gaming part of the department.

The CHAIR: Does the minister need new advisers to help him with this question?

Mr P. PAPALIA: Yes, I do.

The CHAIR: Could you introduce them?

Mr P. PAPALIA: I give a heads up that we still have Rottnest, if members want to do that, and also Citizenship and Multicultural Interests.

Mrs A.K. HAYDEN: No. We are going to run out of time.

Mr V.A. CATANIA: That is why we want to hurry up and keep moving.

The CHAIR: I am clarifying, member for Churchlands, that you are asking a question under division 37?

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: Correct. I refer to budget paper No 2, volume 1, page 306, the future asset investment in Racing and Wagering Western Australia —

The CHAIR: Sorry, member for Churchlands, I am advised that you are asking a question that comes under Racing and Wagering Western Australia

Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE: We are on to that.

The CHAIR: Not under this division. It is a different line item in a different area.

Mrs A.K. HAYDEN: We need to pass division 37 to move to RWWA.

The CHAIR: That is why I asked. I tried to get clarification. I suggest we move to division 37.

Mrs A.K. HAYDEN: Then we will move to Racing and Wagering Western Australia.

The CHAIR: I am pretty confident the member for Churchlands will be able to get to the question he wants to ask.

Ms J.J. SHAW: Chair, the member for Kalamunda has for some time been —

The CHAIR: Thank you, member for Swan Hills. I am very conscious of the time and we have a number of divisions to get through. I am just trying to be helpful.

The appropriation was recommended.