

RACING AND WAGERING WESTERN AUSTRALIA — THOROUGHBRED CO-DIRECTOR

**546. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Racing and Gaming:**

I have a supplementary question. I thank the minister. The minister did rely on eligible body membership to validate his appointment, so is he confident that all participating members understood this new system and that they had the opportunity to vote on who they wanted as their new director?

**Mr P. PAPALIA replied:**

I understand that the member is asking this question on behalf of Hon Colin Holt and does not know anything about it, but the fact is that this was almost unprecedented in nature. We received more than one submission from the thoroughbred code, and that has happened only once before in history as I understand it, after seeking advice from the director general. As a consequence, he was compelled to make a determination between the two nominations. He chose to go with the nominations from the eligible bodies that represented the vast majority of participants in the industry. For instance, one of the eligible bodies to whom the member refers as being in the majority is the Western Australian Bookmakers Association, which I think represents around 30 or 38 people, or something of that nature. That is one of the five eligible bodies that the member claims has weight of numbers. I understand that the Nationals WA are not that familiar with the notion of one vote, one value and representative democracy; nevertheless, in this case, I had nothing to do with it. I sought advice from the director general and he provided the advice. He is a wonderful and well-respected director general across everything he does. In every field of endeavour that the director general engages in, he is absolutely respected across the political spectrum and in all sectors. I took his advice and it was good advice.