

GREYHOUND RACING INDUSTRY — LIVE BAITING

**17. Hon LYNN MacLAREN to the Minister for Racing and Gaming:**

- (1) Is the minister aware of the damning evidence screened last night on *Four Corners* of live baiting to train greyhounds in the racing industry in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland?
- (2) Have there been any allegations or complaints about live baiting in Western Australia's greyhound racing industry?
- (3) Can the Minister for Racing and Gaming assure the Council that live baiting is not practised in the WA greyhound industry?
- (4) If no to (3), will the minister initiate an investigation into the industry?

**Hon COL HOLT replied:**

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

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Racing and Wagering Western Australia has no knowledge of any allegations or complaints of the practice in Western Australia.
- (3)–(4) Racing and Wagering Western Australia has no evidence from either regular inspections, surveillance or the public to support any allegations or complaints in Western Australia. Racing and Wagering Western Australia, the statutory body charged with the function to control, regulate and supervise racing in Western Australia, is confident its integrity and welfare resources are being deployed effectively in all manner of rearing, racing and preparation of greyhounds.

Live baiting is illegal and the local rules of racing include unique and specific rules expressly prohibiting the use of any species of animal as a lure in the practice of training greyhounds. I can assure the house that the report shown last night on the ABC depicted disturbing and unacceptable practices that we in Western Australia deplore and find completely unacceptable. If there is evidence of such practices occurring in Western Australia, I expect Racing and Wagering Western Australia would conduct a thorough investigation.