

**RACING INDUSTRY**

*Statement by Minister for Racing and Gaming*

**MR P. PAPALIA (Warnbro — Minister for Racing and Gaming)** [12.07 pm]: I would like to provide members with an update on the Western Australian racing industry and a range of initiatives underway by the McGowan Labor government, in conjunction with Racing and Wagering Western Australia, the Department of Local Government, sport and cultural industries, and a number of key stakeholders in the racing industry across the three codes. Members will recall that the previous government announced arbitrarily it would sell the WA Totalisator Agency Board without proper consultation or guidance from the racing industry. TAB agents —

**Mr J.E. McGrath** interjected.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** — race clubs and racing bodies lived with the uncertainty surrounding a sale of the TAB for over three years. Our government recognises this unacceptable uncertainty and the need to resolve it. There are a range of issues —

**Mr J.E. McGrath** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member! Are you misleading me? I call you to order for the first time, member for South Perth.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** There are a range of issues that need to be addressed in order to create stability and long-term sustainability for our racing industry.

**Mr J.E. McGrath** interjected.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** I have been working closely with RWWA, the primary racing authority in the state, on —

**Mr J.E. McGrath** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member! You do not interrupt in ministerial statements. I call you to order for the second time, member for South Perth. There must be a race meeting on today somewhere!

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** I have been working closely with RWWA, the primary racing authority in the state, on ensuring an accountable and transparent governance structure with the racing codes to create greater ownership of decision-making amongst the codes. Members would also be aware of the work being coordinated by the Council on Federal Financial Relations, with the commonwealth and state Treasurers agreeing to consider a common national approach on examining a point-of-consumption tax for online gambling, having regard to South Australia's approach. This is an important issue for the racing industry, as the state-based tax regime is one of many factors that influence RWWA's ability to generate returns to the local industry as it competes with bookmakers licensed in other jurisdictions that are not taxed on a level playing field. RWWA will play a key role in this process. I understand from the Treasurer that this work is progressing, and I look forward to working with him to ensure that this potential reform serves the interests of the local racing industry.

With respect to the future of the WA TAB, it is the McGowan government's approach to end the uncertainty and conduct a proper analysis to determine the best way forward for the state and the local racing industry. As has been stated previously many times, the government is committed to consultation with the racing industry prior to making any decision on whether to proceed with a sale, and will proceed only if it can be demonstrated to be in the interests of the racing industry and the state overall. The government is commencing due diligence as part of this work that will serve to inform a sensible and responsible decision on the future of the TAB. I would like to acknowledge the hard work and patience of Western Australia's racing industry, including RWWA, the Western Australian Racing Representative Group, our race clubs and TAB agents over the last three years. Over the coming months, the Treasurer and I will be providing updates to the house on the work being undertaken on the future of the WA TAB and our plan for the sustainability and growth of the WA racing industry.