

ASSET SALES — TAB

**726. Mr J.E. McGRATH to the Minister for Racing and Gaming:**

Given the decision last week by the Australian Competition Tribunal to provide a green light for the merger of Tabcorp and Tatts Group, can the minister inform the house of any progress that has been made by his government towards the possible sale of the TAB?

**Mr P. PAPALIA replied:**

I thank the member for his question. I think we may have had an offline discussion about this matter. As I said at that time, it was my view earlier that the merger of those two bodies might impact on any sale value of the TAB—not that we were contemplating such a move. My view earlier in office was that it might have that impact, but subsequently I have had briefings from people within the industry who suggest that that may not be the case. That aside, the member will be aware, because we have been very open and public about it, that a due diligence process is being undertaken at the moment under the auspices of Treasury, with input from Racing and Wagering Western Australia as the chief advisory body to the Western Australian government on racing. That is being undertaken at the moment. I am certain that that process would incorporate an assessment of all the circumstances, including changes such as the one the member referred to. I cannot tell the member that anything has changed in that matter since the announcement he referred to, but I can say that the due diligence process being undertaken would incorporate an assessment of any factors of that nature. As we have said on many occasions, we do not plan to sell the TAB. The due diligence process will produce a response. That will be assessed by the industry, with RWWA taking leadership of that process. Then consultation with government will determine a way forward.