

CROWN PERTH — DEPARTMENT OF RACING, GAMING AND LIQUOR INSPECTORS

1142. Hon KATE DOUST to the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

I refer to the recent announcement by the Department of Racing, Gaming and Liquor to cut the number of Crown Perth inspectors that was outlined in the PerthNow article published on 8 October 2015.

- (1) Given we only have one casino in the state, why cannot departmental inspectors monitor the complex 24 hours a day as they do in Victoria and New South Wales?
- (2) What is the cost of monitoring the casino gaming operations each year under the current inspector rostering at Crown Perth?
- (3) What will be the cost of monitoring the casino gaming operations each year under the new inspector rostering at Crown Perth?
- (4) What other licensed venues will inspectors operate in?
- (5) What will be the cost–benefit to the state?
- (6) What brought the government to adopt this position?

Hon COL HOLT replied:

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

The department did not announce a cut to Department of Racing, Gaming and Liquor inspectors; this has been incorrectly reported.

- (1) Since 2002, the Gaming and Wagering Commission has relied upon an audit-based approach to regulation, which provides for a cost-effective use of inspectorate resources. Accordingly, inspectors have not been assigned to monitor the casino complex on a 24-hour basis since 2002.
Crown Perth operates within a regulatory framework of operating policies and procedures approved by the commission for gaming and other key transactions. Inspectors' roles revolve around the audit and inspection of these activities to ensure ongoing compliance with those requirements.
- (2) The cost of monitoring the integrity of gaming operations at the casino is reported in the commission's annual report. For 2014–15 the cost was reported as \$240 874.
- (3) There is expected to be an annual reduction of approximately \$37 500 in the salary costs of the inspectorate due to a reduction in shift penalties and allowances paid.
- (4) Inspectors from the Department of Racing, Gaming and Liquor operate in liquor licensed premises and also conduct audits and inspections of premises and venues of licensed wagering operators or where gaming takes place under a permit.
The changes at the casino are rostering changes and inspectors have in the past inspected, and will continue to inspect, other premises.
- (5) The benefit to the state from changing inspectors' rosters will be greater flexibility in the use of inspectorate resources. Under existing arrangements, inspectors were rostered at the casino for full shifts, which has resulted in some underutilisation.
- (6) It was greater efficiency and flexibility in the use of inspectorate resources.