

RACING BETS LEVY BILL 2009

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by **Mr T.K. Waldron (Minister for Racing and Gaming)**, and read a first time.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the minister.

Second Reading

MR T.K. WALDRON (Wagin — Minister for Racing and Gaming) [1.27 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Racing Bets Levy Bill 2009 authorises the collection of approximately \$15 million annually in the levy on racing bets from betting operators who use Western Australian racing product as part of their betting operations. Local, eastern states and overseas betting operators alike will contribute to the local racing industry. This bill complements the Racing and Wagering Legislation Amendment Bill 2009 by allowing for regulations to prescribe the amount of levy payable under the Betting Control Act 1954. The bill also provides flexibility for regulations to be made for a premium to be charged for different racing events such as the Perth Cup, should the Western Australian racing industry seek to emulate other jurisdictions such as Victoria, where a premium is charged for betting on the Victorian Spring Racing Carnival.

In recognising the diversity in betting operations and methods of generating income in the domestic market, the regulations will provide domestic betting operators with the option of paying the racing bets levy based on a percentage of either turnover or gross revenue. It is proposed that initially domestic betting operators will pay either 1.5 per cent of turnover; or the greater of 20 per cent of gross revenue or 0.2 per cent of turnover. Domestic betting operators will be able to select the method that best suits their individual operations. Offshore betting operators will not have this option and will be required to pay the levy of 1.5 per cent of their turnover.

The bill provides for the levy to be deemed to have commenced on 1 September 2008, enabling the retrospective collection of the racing bets levy from all betting operators using the Western Australian racing product. Members should be aware that Western Australian betting operators have been paying product fees or levies to eastern states racing authorities since 1 September 2008. I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr M.P. Murray**.