

VENUESWEST — PERTH MOTORPLEX — DRAG RACING

186. Mr P.B. WATSON to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

I refer to ongoing concerns by members of the Australian National Drag Racing Association over the sanctioning of drag racing events at the Perth Motorplex.

- (1) Why did not VenuesWest seek advice from the Confederation of Australian Motor Sport about VenuesWest's assessment that the International Hot Rod Association was a suitable sanctioning body?
- (2) Is the minister aware that ANDRA and its many members face significant loss of earnings and possible closure here in Western Australia as a result of this decision?
- (3) Will the minister overturn the assessment of the International Hot Rod Association as a suitable sanctioning body pending a complete review of VenuesWest's handling of this matter?

Ms M.J. DAVIES replied:

- (1)–(3) We did not talk to the international overarching body because we referred to a national body in Australia, from which VenuesWest and the Department of Sport and Recreation took advice. It is the appropriate body in Australia. In relation to the sanctioning body for these events, yes there has been a change, and there has been a significant amount of concern in the industry about ANDRA's role as a sanctioning body and in running some of those events itself. There have been discussions with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Albany, ask a supplementary.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I am confident that VenuesWest has done the right thing. It has worked very closely with all the stakeholders. There are some unhappy stakeholders in this space. From VenuesWest's point of view, I have been briefed on this matter and I am confident it has gone down the right path to make sure we have played the correct role in delivering an outcome. That may not be agreed within the industry —

Mr P.B. Watson: The industry is not running it. You're against the people who run it.

The SPEAKER: Member for Albany!

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Thank you, Mr Speaker. All I am saying is that we have worked through the issues with the industry. I am confident that VenuesWest has conducted itself appropriately, so there is not anything further.