

TURNER REPORT, RACING INDUSTRY

1437. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) What is the latest timetable for the State Government's response to the Turner report into the racing industry?
- (2) Does the minister have a view on the possibility of redeveloping Belmont Park Racecourse facilities to include a trotting track as well as the thoroughbred racetrack?

Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS replied:

I thank Hon Barry House for the question.

- (1)-(2) The Government has decided on its response. The Government has decided that the racing industry, subject to the agreement of the Parliament, will be presided over by a new body of racing and wagering in Western Australia. This body will be independent of government in that it is proposed that it will not be subject to ministerial direction. The membership of the body will comprise a chairman nominated by the Minister for Racing and Gaming and eight members, four of whom will come from the codes and four from an independent selection process. I will provide details of that body to the member and others in due course.

The primary recommendation of the report of Mr Turner and his committee, which was provided to me on 31 October last year, was that the industry as a whole should be run as an industry as a whole and that it should also encompass the operations of the Totalisator Agency Board. That central view of the Turner report has been embraced by the Government. The Government's decision is quite detailed and I could probably take up the rest of question time and two question times beyond this to deal with the matter. I do not think it is appropriate that I use question time to give a ministerial statement. I would be very pleased to give Hon Barry House a briefing first. However, I also foreshadow providing members with the appropriate documents relating to the decision and/or a ministerial statement in the very near future.