

RACING AND WAGERING WESTERN AUSTRALIA TAX BILL 2003, TURNOVER TAX

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

Clause 4 of the Racing and Wagering Western Australia Tax Bill 2003, which has been introduced to the Parliament, sets the Totalisator Agency Board turnover tax at five per cent.

- (1) As the Government is currently rebating 0.5 per cent, which represents 10 per cent of the turnover tax, back to the racing industry, why was the rate of tax described in this Bill not set at 4.5 per cent?
- (2) Does this mean that the Government is about to claw back the 0.5 per cent and renege on its election commitment?

Hon NICK GRIFFITHS replied:

I thank the honourable member for the question.

- (1) The Bill to which the honourable member referred makes one change to the law; that is, to make reference to Racing and Wagering Western Australia. The Government very quickly implemented its election promise to cut TAB turnover tax by 10 per cent, and that has been of great benefit to the codes. I note that there has been some criticism of it, but it has been of enormous benefit to each of the three codes and, in my view, throughout the length and breadth of Western Australia where racing takes place.
- (2) No.