

EXTENDED TRADING PERMITS, AUSTRALIA DAY

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

- (1) Is the minister aware that venues north of the river were granted extended trading permits for Australia Day but venues south of the river were not?
- (2) Did the department reject those applications as a result of opposition from the police?
- (3) Is the department required to reject applications if the police do not support them? If not, on what grounds were those applications rejected?

Hon NICK GRIFFITHS replied:

- (1)-(3) I thank the honourable member for the question, which relates to the application for a number of extended trading permits on Australia Day 2003, which was some weeks ago. I am aware of the general issue. The Director of Liquor Licensing is obliged to deal with these matters on their merits. The views of the police are taken into account. Sometimes people forget that the consumption of liquor, particularly in areas that are open to the general public, such as licensed premises, is a matter of public order. With regard to the other particulars, this event occurred several weeks ago; therefore, if the member wants more detailed information, I advise him to put the question on notice or write to me so that I can provide him with a considered response.