

LIQUOR STORES, SUNDAY TRADING

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

- (1) Has the Government already made its decision on Sunday trading for liquor stores or is it still being considered in conjunction with the review of retail trading hours or the report on the Western Australian liquor licensing laws by the National Competition Council?
- (2) If so, will the minister clarify that position and place this view on the parliamentary record?

**Hon NICK GRIFFITHS replied:**

- (1)-(2) The honourable member would be aware that the Government, as the then Opposition, went to the people before the last election about this issue and promised to maintain the status quo. The National Competition Council works under arrangements set up as a result of matters agreed to by the previous Government. As a result of those arrangements, a draft review was carried out by the then Office of Racing and Gaming under the previous Government, which I later caused to be published to seek comment from industry and others who may be interested in the matter.

Earlier during the term of this Government, I received from a number of people submissions that have previously been the subject of comment in the House. In accord with what is required and as a result of the National Competition Council arrangement entered into by the previous Government, I caused a report to be prepared that was presented to the Government as a whole. That matter is now being considered by Government in conjunction with other matters with which the Government must deal with respect to the operations of the National Competition Council. It is important to note that, under these arrangements, which were entered into by the previous Government, the National Competition Council, which is an unelected body, makes representations or puts a position to the federal Treasurer, Mr Costello, who then makes a decision about whether to do something untoward to the finances of a state jurisdiction. I trust the federal Treasurer would not do such a thing.

Hon Barry House: What about Sunday trading for liquor stores? That is what the question was about.

Hon NICK GRIFFITHS: The honourable member asked a question about Sunday trading for liquor stores, as I understand it, and I was answering that question.