

LIQUOR INDUSTRY, DEREGULATION

**1284. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Racing and Gaming:**

I refer the minister to statements he and the Premier have made on the deregulation of the liquor industry, which include the statement on 11 June 2002 by the Minister for Racing and Gaming that the Government remains opposed to the deregulation of liquor licensing in this State; on 12 October 2001 that the Labor Party's election promise was to oppose the deregulation of the liquor industry to protect retailers and encourage responsible behaviour when it comes to alcohol and that the Labor Party remains opposed to the further deregulation of the Liquor Licensing Act; on 23 August 2001, that one of the key Labor Party election commitments was to oppose the deregulation of the liquor industry if elected; and, on 10 January 2001, the statement by the Premier that Labor opposes the further deregulation of the Liquor Licensing Act and Sunday trading by liquor stores. I ask -

- (1) In light of these unequivocal watertight commitments, how does the minister reconcile the changes announced in his media statement on 1 September 2003 that the Government will extend liquor store trading hours from 6.00 am to midnight Monday to Saturday and 10.00 am to 10.00 pm on Sundays, and permit every restaurant to trade in alcohol like a tavern or wine bar?
- (2) Why has the Gallop Labor Government broken yet another election promise?

**Hon NICK GRIFFITHS replied:**

- (1) I do not think that the honourable member understands the media statement.

Hon Barry House: I have a copy of it.

Hon NICK GRIFFITHS: The member should try to understand it.

In opposition and in Government, the Labor Party made it quite clear that there would be no change and that applies for the term of this Parliament. Unlike John Howard, who lies to the Australian people and says never ever, when we go to an election and make an election promise, that promise has the currency of the Parliament. That election promise is being honoured, unlike those made by the Prime Minister who lies to the Australian people. With respect to restaurants, the honourable member seems to have misunderstood our position.

- (2) Not applicable.