

LIQUOR LICENSING ACT REVIEW, TERMS OF REFERENCE

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

I refer to the recently announced terms of reference for the review of the Liquor Licensing Act.

- (1) Will the review be conducted by the Department of Racing, Gaming and Liquor or will it be an independent review?
- (2) Has the minister announced the names of people who will conduct the review?
- (3) If not, this is the minister's chance to make that announcement. Will he make it?
- (4) When will the review be conducted and completed?

Hon NICK GRIFFITHS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) The review will not be conducted by the department. The review will be conducted by a person or persons yet to be appointed.
- (2) No. See (2).
- (3) I thank the member for giving me an opportunity, but I will not take it as a decision has not been made at this time.
- (4) This Government engages in a fairly high degree of consultation. I have engaged in a lot of consultation on this area of policy, notwithstanding a number of people saying from time to time that I have not. Following the Premier's announcement in March that the Government will not be pursuing the reform package, in accordance with the Government's wishes, I embarked on a process of consultation with stakeholders in the industry and others. I received input into the terms of reference and I gave consideration to that input. The Government made a decision about the terms of reference after I brought forward the terms of reference.

Hon Barry House: For what it is worth, I think the terms of reference are good.

Hon NICK GRIFFITHS: I thank the member. The process takes time. After establishing the terms of reference, it is then necessary to get an appropriate person, who will have the respect of the community, to operate in an independent and measured way so that we get the right decision. It is not easy getting someone who meets that general set of criteria. I am giving consideration to it; I hope that I will soon have a very good proposed appointment as a chairperson. My desire is to have three people conduct the inquiry, not just one. It will be an inquiry that will deal with the matters in a proper way. The first part of the exercise is to get the right person to be the chair before appointing two others. We must settle on the terms of remuneration because this will require a lot of resources in terms of the time individuals will spend. It will not be an hour-a-day job; I expect the people who take on the job to be engaged in a very conscientious way. In the context of its being a proper inquiry that will satisfy the requirements of the community, the timing of how long it will take will be up to the inquirers.