

MR GRAHAM BURKETT, OFFICE OF RACING, GAMING AND LIQUOR

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

Will the minister inform the House what role Mr Graham Burkett performs in his office, and what particular experience and qualifications he has in the racing and gaming portfolio?

Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS replied:

Mr Graham Burkett is my chief of staff, and as such he presides over the office overall. My policy adviser on racing and gaming matters is Mr Neville Catchpole. Mr Graham Burkett is well qualified to be a minister's chief of staff. I should point out some of his qualifications. He was a councillor of the City of Stirling for a number of years, and served a considerable period as mayor of the City of Stirling. He was the member for Scarborough in the other place for two terms commencing 1983 and 1986. Following his tenure as a member of the other place, Mr Burkett obtained employment in the previous Labor Government. During the interregnum - if I may refer to it as that - between 1993 and 2001 Mr Burkett was engaged by a number of ministers in the previous Government, namely, Hon Richard Lewis, Hon Murray Criddle and I think Hon Eric Charlton. Mr Burkett is currently a local government representative serving on the Town of Cambridge. His broad governmental and administrative experience enables him to carry out his duties very well, and I am pleased to have him as my chief of staff serving the Government.