

RACING AND WAGERING INDUSTRY, FUND HAEMORRHAGE

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

What steps has the minister taken to protect the Western Australian racing and wagering industry from a potential haemorrhaging of funds as a result of the emergence of British gambling exchanges such as Betfair?

Hon NICK GRIFFITHS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

I am aware of the issue, as are the other Australasian racing ministers. The Australasian racing ministers, following the lead of the New South Wales and Western Australian Governments on the issue, commissioned a task force, which has dealt with these matters by way of a report that has been considered by the Australian racing industry. The matter will be dealt with at the next meeting of Australasian racing ministers - the New Zealand racing minister is invited and sometimes attends, but sometimes sends a representative. That meeting was to have taken place some weeks ago. However, unfortunately, due to an election in New South Wales it was postponed. I hope that the meeting will take place soon and that the honourable member will see some positive results from that meeting.