

LARK HILL RACING COMPLEX

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

Will the minister explain his support for the Lark Hill racing complex and acknowledge its potential impact on eight other racing clubs in the nearby vicinity, particularly the Northam Race Club, the Pinjarra Race Club and the Bunbury Turf Club?

Hon NICK GRIFFITHS replied:

The racing industry is a great industry and I am very concerned to support its growth wherever I can, because it not only generates a fantastic amount of employment but also provides great social and community building activity.

Lark Hill is a marvellous facility. It is an all-weather track that has been provided to people involved in the racing industry through the work of volunteers. I am very grateful for the opportunity to pay tribute to Mr Len Pike, Mr Rick Ould and the many participants in the southern districts racing fraternity. They had a very successful second picnic meeting last Sunday. In excess of 300 horses are trained at Lark Hill. It is situated in the City of Rockingham and close to areas that are anticipated to experience significant increases in population.

Hon Barry House interjected.

Hon NICK GRIFFITHS: I note the trite comment from the member that Lark Hill is situated in a Labor electorate. As far as I am concerned, I am supportive of the racing industry irrespective of whether the activity occurs in a Labor electorate, a National Party electorate or even a Liberal electorate. I applaud the work done by all those involved in developing Lark Hill. The developments there will be good for the racing industry. I reiterate that I support racing activity wherever I can.