

BURSWOOD RESORT CASINO, MR GRAHAM RICHARDSON'S MEETING WITH MINISTER

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

- (1) Has the minister or his staff met with Mr Graham Richardson, Mr James Packer or any other representative of Kerry Packer's company, PBL, since taking over the racing and gaming portfolio?
- (2) If so, was the Burswood Resort Casino discussed?

Hon NICK GRIFFITHS replied:

- (1)-(2) The House may be interested to know that Mr Mark Drummond, a journalist from *The Australian Financial Review*, contacted my office yesterday. I advised him that on 22 March 2002, Mr Richardson called at my office by appointment. He attended in his capacity as a lobbyist for Mr Packer's interests with a view to discussing matters affecting Burswood Resort Casino. In accordance with appropriate practice, I listened to Mr Richardson. In attendance was the Director General of the Department of Racing, Gaming and Liquor. I noted what Mr Richardson had to say. I point out to the House that at no time did I engage in any negotiations with Mr Richardson. I did not inform him of the state of negotiations I was conducting with Burswood Resort Casino. I have not met Mr James Packer. The only person I have met regarding the PBL interest in Burswood Resort Casino is Mr Richardson.