

TWO-UP SCHOOL, KALGOORLIE

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

- (1) Does the minister agree with the concept put forward by the member for Kalgoorlie, Mr Matt Birney, that a replica of a Kalgoorlie bush two-up school should be built on vacant land at the top end of Hannan Street adjacent to the bypass road?
- (2) Does the minister further agree with the member for Kalgoorlie's idea to change the current two-up licence to require two-up to be played at the proposed Hannan Street site at least one day a week to encourage more tourists; and, if not, why not?

Hon NICK GRIFFITHS replied:

May I say how delighted I am to be in this Chamber today and address issues that members have raised.

- (1) May I point out that the member for Kalgoorlie has not presented to me a concept to replicate a Kalgoorlie bush two-up school on vacant land in Hannan Street, Kalgoorlie.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order, members!

Hon George Cash: Will the minister give the answer as well?

The PRESIDENT: Thank you, Hon George Cash.

Hon NICK GRIFFITHS: However, I understand that in 2001 the Gaming Commission of Western Australia gave in-principle support for the relocation of the bush two-up school to a site in Kalgoorlie where the ambience and character could be replicated.

- (2) As the bush two-up school ceased to operate in mid 2001, there is no current bush two-up licence to change. However, I understand that one of the operators of the original bush two-up school, Mr Daniel Sheehan, made application to recommence the game at a bush site on Sunday afternoons between the hours of 2.00 and 9.00 pm. In August this year the commission, having regard to the primary object of the Gaming and Wagering Commission Act that gaming in the community not be conducted for private gain or any commercial undertaking, resolved to not issue a permit to Mr Sheehan to conduct the bush two-up school for private gain. The commission considers that any grandfather rights to descendants of Messrs Sheehan and Turich may have to operate the bush two-up school terminated when the bush two-up school ceased to operate in June 2001. The commission agreed to consider an application on the basis of the historical significance of bush two-up to Kalgoorlie and that it be conducted for a charitable, sporting or community purpose as approved by the commission. Section 48(1) of the Gaming and Wagering Commission Act affords the Minister for Racing and Gaming the authority, after consultation with the commission, to direct the commission to issue a permit for a specified type of gaming, including two-up, in connection with a major sporting event, a special occasion or another exceptional circumstance. Regard may also be had for the recreational and social aspects of any proposed gaming. The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder can, for example, make an application for the bush two-up school to operate during next year's racing round or with respect to any event that falls into the categories of a major sporting event, a special occasion or exceptional circumstances.

Hon Barry House: What about answering the question?

Hon NICK GRIFFITHS: Why does the member not think of his own questions for a change?