

RACING AND WAGERING WESTERN AUSTRALIA, COSTS

223. Hon Barry House to the Minister for Racing and Gaming
- (1) What is the anticipated annual running cost of the new Racing and Wagering Western Australia?
 - (2) Will this be an extra cost to the racing industry in Western Australia?
 - (3) If yes, how does the Minister justify the increased cost and how will this cost be shared by the industry?
 - (4) If no, will the Minister detail the cost savings and where they will come from within the industry?
 - (5) Have budgets been prepared showing anticipated operating costs for Racing and Wagering Western Australia?
 - (6) What are the expected cost savings or cost increases for the TAB, the WATC, the WATA, WAGRA and the Racecourse Development Trust as part of the restructure?
 - (7) The Government has stated that when the TAB becomes the wagering division of Racing and Wagering Western Australia, that savings will be generated from board fees and associated board costs. How much are those savings?
 - (8) The Government has also stated that there will be some economies of scale achieved from the rationalisation of similar functions presently performed by the respective controlling authorities. Will the Minister detail those economies of scale?

Hon NICK GRIFFITHS replied:

- (1),(5) An Implementation Team has been established to oversee the establishment of Racing and Wagering Western Australia (RWWA) and it will be the responsibility of the Implementation Team to develop budgets for the establishment and initial operations of RWWA.

While I am aware that the Implementation Team has established a number of working groups to examine the different operational aspects of the TAB and the three racing controlling authorities to identify and facilitate a smooth transition to RWWA, at this stage the Implementation Team has not finalised any budgets.

- (2)-(4),(6) It is not expected that there will be any significant increase in the cost of industry management brought about by the establishment of RWWA, as the current activities of the TAB and the racing controlling authorities will continue under the authority of RWWA. Until the Implementation Team is further advanced in its work in this regard, no details are available.
- (7) The current board fees and associated board expenses of the agencies to be abolished is approximately \$200,000 per annum.
- (8) The final structure of RWWA will be determined by the board of RWWA and therefore, details of economies of scale available from rationalisation of activities will not be known until this occurs.