

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN TROTTING ASSOCIATION, CONSULTATION

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

I refer to the article in today's *The West Australian* headed "Trots chief critical of Minister" in which the harness racing chief, Mr Garry Scott, accused the minister of derailing his club's initiative to significantly boost its Totalisator Agency Board betting turnover, of having political motives and for not consulting his club. Why and how did the minister make his final decision on the 16 harness racing meetings without consulting the principal club, the Western Australian Trotting Association?

Hon NICK GRIFFITHS replied:

That is a most interesting question. I refer the honourable member to the statement I made to the House on Tuesday. That should answer his question satisfactorily. I find the question from the honourable member curious though; I thought he agreed with the decision I made.

Hon Barry House: I am not questioning the decision; I am questioning how you got to the decision.

Hon NICK GRIFFITHS: I understood that those alongside and behind the member agreed with the decision I made.

Hon Barry House: Why didn't you consult the WA Trotting Association?

Hon NICK GRIFFITHS: The honourable member should reflect on his words and read the ministerial statement carefully.