

LIQUOR WHOLESALING INDUSTRY, REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

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

The minister would be aware that he has been approached frequently over the past three years by the liquor wholesaling industry with the request that the Government drop the requirement of reporting litreage figures to the Department of Racing, Gaming and Liquor. This requirement is a costly impost on the industry and serves no useful purpose. Western Australia is the only State with this requirement, and there is wholesale traffic of liquor across state borders.

- (1) Why does the minister insist on retaining the superfluous requirement?
- (2) When will the minister move to abolish it?

Hon NICK GRIFFITHS replied:

- (1)-(2) I am aware of the issue. In fact, I raised it at the inaugural liquor licensing ministers' conference with a view to establish uniformity across Australia. I think it is an impost on the industry. However, the matter is currently being addressed by health ministers with a view to ensuring that appropriate statistics are available so that the health component of liquor licensing can be taken into account. I hope we will get to the stage at which the imposts can be removed and a better system introduced.