

LIQUOR LICENSING LEGISLATION

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

With regard to yesterday's backflip on the proposed liquor licensing legislation, will the minister acknowledge -

- (a) that this reflects the Labor Government's incompetence and poor judgment in this area of policy;
- (b) that the Labor Government has finally adopted the Liberal Party's position, proving that we got it right from the start and the Government got it wrong;
- (c) that this was a classic case of policy on the run, announced through the Government's own media release on 1 September 2003, without any consultation or proper process; and
- (d) that the Government finally came to the same conclusion that we arrived at months ago, that Sunday trading for liquor stores and unrestricted access to alcohol through restaurants -
 - (i) was unnecessary and unwise;
 - (ii) would have further encouraged uncontrolled consumption of alcohol at a time when there have been many recent incidents of antisocial behaviour associated with this issue, such as unruly street parties and the Australia Day sky show; and
 - (iii) would have imposed another unfair burden on many small businesses and given a free kick to the major retail trading chain stores?

The PRESIDENT: The member will be aware that that question is out of order.