

RACING AND TROTTING

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

Does the minister support the possible future rationalisation of trotting and racing facilities at Belmont Park Racecourse?

Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS replied:

That is a matter for the committees of the Western Australian Trotting Association and the Western Australian Turf Club. If the committee of the WATA resolves to go down that path - that has been mooted - it will need to go before the membership of the association, which will then vote on whether to accept the proposal. A lot can be said for a proper rationalisation of the resources of the racing codes and for their working together. I note that there is a lot of goodwill between the racing codes and that there is a great concern among many people who work together. Geraldton is a great example of that. The Geraldton Trotting Club has recently concluded its season. The trotting track is contained on the inside of the new Geraldton racing track, which is a wonderful facility. I am looking forward to thoroughbred racing restarting in Geraldton in October.

Hon M.J. Criddle interjected.

Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS: I am looking forward to seeing Hon Murray Criddle there. Given that the issue of the disposition of Gloucester Park should be decided by the members of the WATA, I do not think it is appropriate at this stage that I express a view.