

RACING AND WAGERING WESTERN AUSTRALIA — RACING PENALTIES (APPEALS) ACT —
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

246. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

I ask a supplementary question. Why does the minister and his agency, Racing and Wagering Western Australia, not support the jockeys in Western Australia in their quest to introduce a fairer and more modern appeals process?

Mr T.K. WALDRON replied:

I do not support it at this stage because I do not think it will be a fairer and better appeals process. In fact, I am concerned about what they are putting forward, because I see what happens in other states. Our process is clean and quick. It does not allow things to drag on for months and months so that jockeys can ride for months and months while awaiting appeal.

Mr M.P. Murray interjected.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: It is a fair system, and there are people in the racing industry who tell me it is very fair. There are people over east who wish —

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Albany, I call you to order now for the second time.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: RWWA still had not finished its consultation. I will wait, member, and if RWWA comes to me and says that there is consensus and everyone thinks it is a good idea, obviously I will consider it. But I know that is not the case at this stage, because I have had letters from Harness Racing Australia and from the WA Country Racing Association, who were actually put out by the fact that they were misrepresented to me. When RWWA has finished its process, I will look at it with an open mind. But I will not make any decision—I have to come to Parliament to make this decision, because it is legislation—that would weaken the integrity of racing. One thing I can say about our stewards system in Western Australia is that it is a good system. Integrity in sport generally is a big issue that we are dealing with on a day in, day out basis. So I have an open mind, and once RWWA has done that, I will be happy to meet with them, as I have met with them before.