

TAB — PRIVATISATION

263. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Premier:

I refer to the Premier's comments in Parliament on 25 February about the potential benefits associated with privatising the TAB.

- (1) Why did the Premier say that the value of the TAB was approximately \$1 billion when Treasury estimates that it is worth approximately \$200 million?
- (2) If a new facility is built for racing, how much of the \$200 million return from the sale of the TAB will be left to reduce debt?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

- (1)–(2) The last privatisation of the TAB was in the ACT, and I think it went for \$140 million or \$170 million—it was something of that order, in any case; I think it was \$140 million. The ACT privatised its TAB either late last year or early this year and it got \$140 million for it. I would think that the Western Australian TAB is worth substantially above that amount.

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cannington!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr C.J. BARNETT: The ultimate price that we would get for the TAB would depend not only on the market it serves—Western Australia is a growing market and a fairly high betting one—but also on the terms and conditions attached to that sale. That is the critical element and members opposite do not understand that it is the terms and conditions that determine the value. I suggest that the TAB is worth far more than \$200 million.