

ALCOHOL ONSELLING — PROHIBITION REGULATIONS —
CARNARVON AND GASCOYNE JUNCTION

541. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

I refer to Monday's announcement of regulations for the carriage limits of alcohol imposed on Carnarvon and Gascoyne Junction, which were gazetted on 9 August.

- (1) Why was there an apparent delay in the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' communication of these changes to the community and industry?
- (2) Was that the result of an instruction from the minister or his office?
- (3) Is it appropriate for the minister's office to make an announcement without consulting or educating the community, thereby exposing law-abiding citizens to the risk of unknowingly breaking the law?
- (4) Can the minister inform the house which other communities the minister intends to roll this measure out to?

Mr R.R. WHITBY replied:

- (1)–(4) There was no failure to inform the community. We have spoken about these limits for a long time. They are very clear and information has been made available. In fact, I have a copy of a poster in my office that has been made available to liquor outlets. It is well known. The police will play a very informed role in the implementation of the regulations, which will not apply to certain categories of people. This is about targeting sly groggers who prey on the misery of people who are affected by alcohol. I am surprised that the Leader of the Opposition would question an initiative like this, which is intended to avoid some of the crises that we have seen in communities, including in Carnarvon, to avoid family and domestic violence, to avoid kids being too terrified to go home, and to avoid vandalism and crime in communities in Western Australia, including remote communities.

These restrictions are about stopping sly groggers making exorbitant profits at the expense of vulnerable families and people with an addiction by charging huge, inflated prices for alcohol and taking all their money. It is designed to protect those people and stop the sly groggers. I would expect, and I hope, that as a representative of a regional electorate the Leader of the Opposition would be the first to support these measures because they are intended to support communities and help our most vulnerable people who are impacted by the scourge of alcohol abuse.