

NORTHBRIDGE NIGHTCLUBS — EARLIER CLOSING TRIAL

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

I ask a supplementary question. On what basis was the decision made that has not been forthcoming?

**Mr T.K. WALDRON replied:**

I am not quite sure what the member means.

**Mr E.S. Ripper:** Tell us the reasons for the decision.

**Mr T.K. WALDRON:** The reasons were —

Several members interjected.

**Mr T.K. WALDRON:** As members would know, we have had a lot of antisocial behaviour. We have had people getting hurt.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, Leader of the Opposition!

**Mr T.K. WALDRON:** Just listen.

Several members interjected.

**Mr T.K. WALDRON:** I think it is a combination of both. Obviously people move from one to the other. The idea was to try to put in some measures —

**Mr E.S. Ripper:** Why are you punishing the nightclubs and not attending to the hotel issue?

**The SPEAKER:** Order, Leader of the Opposition!

**Mr T.K. WALDRON:** This is a trial, and it was agreed to by the Big N group, which the nightclub owners are a part of —

**Mr E.S. Ripper:** They do not agree with it.

**Mr T.K. WALDRON:** Some do not, but some do. Not all do not agree. Some do agree with it. I actually want to congratulate the Big N group —

**Mr M. McGowan:** The Big N group? Is that what they are called?

**Mr T.K. WALDRON:** Yes, the Big N group. I think they are smart, because that group of business men and women have recognised that we have a problem. They recognise that the government wanted to do some things about that. We could have been a lot harsher across the board, but we wanted to make sure we worked with them. They got on the front foot and they implemented the scanning machines et cetera. I do not know whether the member has been to see how they are running that. It is working very well. It might not be the be-all and end-all, but it certainly having an effect.

**Mr E.S. Ripper:** Does the violence not occur after the hotels close, not after the nightclubs close?

**Mr T.K. WALDRON:** There are many different opinions on that, which is why we ran the trial.

**Mr E.S. Ripper:** You should have run a trial for the hotels too.

**Mr M.P. Murray:** Be open and honest and put it on the table so everyone can read it!

**Mr T.K. WALDRON:** It was a trial, member for Collie–Preston. The aim of a trial is to put some things in place, have a look and then assess it. I will continue to work with the people in the area, who understand the issues better than most of us. I have learnt a hell of a lot since I have been working with them.

**Mr E.S. Ripper:** Can we see the reasons for the decision?

**Mr T.K. WALDRON:** I understand the nightclubs' concerns; however, I will evaluate those concerns at the end of the trial and talk with the Director of Liquor Licensing. Obviously, we will make a decision on what we will implement and maybe what we will change.