

COUNTRY RACE MEETINGS, TOODYAY PICNIC RACE DAY

285. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

I understand that the minister overruled the Western Australian Trotting Association's decision to relocate 16 meetings from the country to the city. On behalf of country racing, will the minister now do the same to reinstate events such as the Toodyay picnic race day?

Hon NICK GRIFFITHS replied:

I learnt a lot from Hon Norman Moore and Hon Max Evans about racing and gaming, and I always thanked them for their courtesy when I had the honour of shadowing them over a relatively short period.

Hon Norman Moore: It was a real pleasure having you shadow us, I might say. It is a good place for you to be.

Hon NICK GRIFFITHS: Perhaps I should answer the question, which was a question without notice. First, Hon Murray Criddle asked a question without notice in which he made mention of his understanding, and his understanding is correct. However, more to the point, he provided me with some notice of a question, and that was in these terms -

Minister I congratulate you on overruling the Western Australian Trotting Association's decision to relocate 16 meetings from the country to the city

Will you now do the same on behalf of country racing to reinstate events such as the Toodyay Picnic Race Day?

I thought the first part of the member's question should be read out because it makes some sense of the answer that I will now provide to him. I should read this out because these words have been chosen carefully.

I thank the honourable member for his support of my decision to direct the Western Australian Trotting Association to revert to its schedule of race dates released on 2 August. With respect to the Toodyay picnic race day, the Racing Restriction Act 1917 does not provide me with the authority to intervene unless the club is in dispute with the Western Australian Turf Club about proposed changes to the program of race meetings customarily conducted within the metropolitan area, and the proposed changes may necessitate a reduction in the number of race meetings or the making of any other change to any program of race meetings customarily conducted outside the metropolitan area. I add that there is no dispute under the Racing Restriction Act 1917.