

RACING RADIO BROADCAST — REGIONAL AREAS

4103. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Racing and Gaming

I congratulate the Minister on his announcement that Kalgoorlie-Boulder and Kambalda have now received a Racing Radio broadcast, and I ask:

- (a) when will Collie receive a Racing Radio broadcast;
- (b) is there a reason why Collie cannot use the former Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) Frequency Modulation (FM) frequency that is now not in use; and
- (c) has there been any study to evaluate the value of Racing Radio to the Tabcorp Holdings Limited (TAB) turnover?

Mr T.K. WALDRON replied:

- (a) In July 2010 Racing and Wagering Western Australia expressed its support to the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) plan to make channel capacity available for a new high power open narrowcasting (HPON) radio service at Collie (on 1593 kHz with a maximum transmitter power of 500W).

As soon as ACMA announces an auction date for the abovementioned radio service, Racing and Wagering Western Australia will enter a bidding process.

- (b) According to the Draft Variation to Licence Area Plan for Bunbury Radio on the ACMA website, SBS does not have a frequency and in fact appears to be seeking an FM frequency to be able to relay their SBS satellite service.

- (c) No study has been undertaken.

Racing Radio provides a combined audio feed of the daily racing into agencies and licensed premises. It is also available on limited strength frequencies throughout the state as a broadcast program. Racing Radio also streams live on the internet.

Racing Radio's primary purpose is to serve the information needs of Racing and Wagering Western Australia's WA customers. It is not believed to contribute any benefit to out of state competitors such as Tabcorp who have their own services.