

LIQUOR LICENCES — MEEKATHARRA

2926. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

I refer to the Police Commissioner's comments (*The West Australian*, p. 23, July 18, 2014) labelling Meekatharra as Western Australia's domestic violence capital and blaming this on alcohol-fuelled violence, and ask:

- (a) what was the response of the submission made by Western Australian Police to the Director of Liquor Licensing, about 18 months ago requesting the imposition of some liquor restrictions in Meekatharra;
- (b) does the Department of Racing, Gaming and Liquor have a program in place to reduce alcohol fuelled violence in Meekatharra which currently has arrests for family assaults rated at twice the national average and the highest in Western Australia; and
- (c) can the Minister confirm that members of local government in Meekatharra operate liquor licenses in Meekatharra, and if so, who and what local government position do they hold, what facility holds the liquor license?

Mr T.K. Waldron replied:

- (a)–(b) The Director of Liquor Licensing provided a copy of the police report to licensees in the towns of Meekatharra, Cue, Mount Magnet, Sandstone and Yalgoo and to other stakeholders (including the respective shire councils) and sought their comments on the report and the recommendations of the police for restrictions to be imposed on the liquor licences in these towns. Having considered the various submissions, the Director of Liquor Licensing issued a notice, pursuant to section 64(2a) of the *Liquor Control Act 1988*, requiring licensees to show cause why conditions should not be imposed on their liquor licences in order to minimise alcohol-related harm in the area. Licensees have until 30 September 2014 to respond. Following receipt and consideration of the responses from licensees the Director of Liquor Licensing will determine whether the conditions of the liquor licences in the affected towns should be varied.
- (c) I am unable to confirm whether members of the local government in Meekatharra operate liquor licences in Meekatharra.