

OCEAN BEACH HOTEL — DEFENESTRATION FATALITY

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

I refer to Andy Marshall who was thrown to his death at the Ocean Beach Hotel.

- (1) Why was this establishment allowed to stay open for the rest of the night after the incident at 9.00 pm?
- (2) Why has its trading licence not been revoked pending an investigation of the incident?
- (3) Will the minister legislate to ensure that if events like this occur, an establishment can have its licence frozen pending the outcome of an investigation?

Mr T.K. WALDRON replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1) The police have the authority to close a hotel if they see fit to do so at the time. The police can close a hotel or the hotel can close voluntarily. I am not aware of the strict details of what happened on the night, other than to say it was a terrible situation and obviously a report is being done on it.

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I am not aware of that side of it; I understand that there were some concerns around the number of people in the hotel and on the street at the time, but it is really a police matter to deal with that.

The second part of the member's question is the —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr T.K. WALDRON: The second part of the member's question regarded the Director of Liquor Licensing— what was the second part of the member's question again?

Mr M.P. Murray: Why wasn't their trading licence revoked pending an investigation?

Mr T.K. WALDRON: The independent Director of Liquor Licensing, as the member knows, will get a report on that and he will look at all the instances around that. It is not for me to interfere. We have a Director of Liquor Licensing and we have the police; it is not for me as a minister to interfere on that occasion —

Several members interjected.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: No, it is not.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr T.K. WALDRON: It is not my role, member. I think I have answered the member's question; that is not my role. Like everyone else, I was really concerned. Until the report, we are not even sure of the exact circumstances. People have been saying it is the alcohol, the drugs et cetera but we do not know that yet. As the minister, I do not know that yet. That will come through the police investigation that takes place.

I will always look at legislation, as I did last year, to try to improve the situation with alcohol-related violence. My whole focus, as I have talked to the member about, is to try to target the troublemakers. As we know, most people enjoy a good night out and drink responsibly, but a section of the community does not. Through prohibition orders and barring notices, that is what we are focusing on and I think there are some pretty good results.