

LIQUOR LICENSING — SMALL BAR APPLICATIONS

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

I ask a supplementary question. How can the minister claim to be part of a government that is committed to reducing red tape when he has introduced laws that have created additional expense and impediments for these small business people?

Mr T.K. WALDRON replied:

The director provided an exemption to encourage a new form of liquor licensing in the state—the small bar—which was the right thing to do at the time.

Mr M. McGowan: No, you didn't think so; you voted against it.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Let me answer. I thank the member for Rockingham for raising that. If members read the speech I made about this issue, my concern was the effect that it would have on country hotels. In my speech I said that despite my concern, I was happy to watch and see what happened; and if I was wrong about the effect on country hotels, I would support it. I was wrong about the effect on country hotels. It is that simple. Members can read *Hansard*. The requirements have not changed. They are in line with all liquor licensing requirements. It is an important requirement. Hold-ups usually happen for a good reason, which is fair enough.