

RACING AND WAGERING WESTERN AUSTRALIA — RACING PENALTIES (APPEALS) ACT —
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

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

I was so surprised that he stood!

I refer to advice from the minister's principal policy adviser, Mr Jon Nichols, that the minister would not meet with key stakeholder groups about proposed amendments to the Racing Penalties (Appeals) Act 1990, saying that there was no consensus in the industry about the changes.

- (1) Why does Racing and Wagering Western Australia not consider the Western Australian Jockey's Association; the Australian Jockeys' Association; the Western Australian Trotting Association; Perth Racing; the Western Australian Harness Racing Breeders, Owners, Trainers and Reinspersons Association; and the Western Australian Provincial Thoroughbred Racing Association's support of amendments an industry consensus?
- (2) Why is Racing and Wagering Western Australia not fulfilling its role to support and represent the views of industry stakeholders in this case?

Mr T.K. WALDRON replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for Collie–Preston for the question. So that the member will know, I have met with and corresponded with the Western Australian Jockey's Association on this issue, and I understand fully —

Mr M.P. Murray interjected.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Just listen. I have met with it on the issue and I have corresponded with it on the issue, and I understand fully what its issue is. I expressed right from the start that I had concerns about the proposed changes. This is about integrity, which is the very basis of the racing industry. Integrity is very important. Therefore, I will not make any change unless I am guaranteed that that will be the best for integrity.

The Western Australian Jockey's Association went around and saw all the different groups. What it probably should have done is see Racing and Wagering Western Australia, which is the body that represents all those groups. But, nevertheless, it went to each group and it told those groups what it wanted to see happen. Some of those groups have supported it, as the member said. Not all those groups have supported it. There are different groups that the member listed that have supported it, and there are also groups that have not supported it. RWWA is now meeting with all those industry groups. Once RWWA has done that, it will let me know whether it thinks there is consensus and there should be any change. I do not think there will be consensus, because, for instance, the WA Country Racing Association has written to me to say it does not support the change. Australian Harness Racing does not support the change. When I go over east and meet with other racing ministers, they say they like the system that we have. We have a very good system, which is high in integrity. I have an open mind. I am happy to look at it. If the whole industry and RWWA are telling me —

Mr M.P. Murray interjected.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I am happy to meet with them. I have already met with them, member. I do not want to meet with them again until we have been through the process. I have actually met with them on more than one occasion. I have written to them and let them know what I am doing. The member is saying the whole industry agrees. There is no consensus across the industry.

Mr M.P. Murray interjected.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: The member for Collie–Preston is a country member of Parliament. Country Racing has written to me saying it does not support it. Hello! So there we go. What they have not done is sit down with RWWA, which the former Labor government appointed. RWWA was put together—I think that was a good decision—to represent the industry, and that is what it is doing.