

TAB — PRIVATISATION

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

I refer to the highly unusual public statements made by officers from Racing and Wagering Western Australia opposing the privatisation of the TAB.

- (1) What is the minister's position and the Western Australian National Party's position on the government's asset sales task force's targeting of the TAB?
- (2) What feedback from industry stakeholders has the minister received about the privatisation?
- (3) Will the TAB be privatised?

**Mr T.K. WALDRON replied:**

- (1)–(3) I thank the member for the question. I am on record in this place saying that I do not support the privatisation of the TAB. I think that the TAB in Western Australia plays a really important part in the funding and ongoing success and health of the racing industry, which is extremely important to Western Australia. Talking about Racing and Wagering Western Australia, I have discussed this with RWWA on many occasions. RWWA does not support the privatisation of the TAB. I have given an assurance that when the time comes, if RWWA thought it was in the best interests of the racing industry to privatise the TAB, obviously I would listen to that. It is not about to do that, I can assure members of that. From speaking to industry people, there is not support for the privatisation of the TAB. That is the position at the moment.

**Mr M. McGowan:** Is it the government's position that it will not be privatised?

**Mr T.K. WALDRON:** Yes.

**Mr B.S. Wyatt:** Or the National Party's position?

**Mr T.K. WALDRON:** I do not think the Nationals actually have a formal position on it, but formally the Nationals would not support the privatisation of the TAB. I have said this in this house before: if it was in the best interests of the racing industry, the government would consider it. My experience shows that privatisations in other states, particularly in Tasmania and South Australia, have not been good for the industry. They in fact have been detrimental to the industry. Some of the other privatisations have been different because they have involved poker machines as part of that deal, which has made it a different scenario. I do not support the privatisation of the TAB.