

SUNDAY ENTERTAINMENTS REPEAL BILL 2019

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by **Mr J.R. Quigley (Minister for Commerce)**, and read a first time.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the minister.

Second Reading

MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Butler — Minister for Commerce) [12.02 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

Today I introduce the Sunday Entertainments Repeal Bill 2019. The bill will repeal the Sunday Entertainments Act 1979 of Western Australia, which restricts the keeping, opening or use of premises for paid public entertainment or amusement on Sundays, Christmas Day or Good Friday unless the minister has issued a permit or granted a general exemption to allow a place to open on those days. Since 1979, ministers of successive governments have granted permanent exemptions for paid entertainment on Sundays and short-term exemptions on Christmas Day and Good Friday, and published exclusion notices in the *Government Gazette* to allow cinemas, sporting events, live-music performances, carnivals, festivals and the like to operate. Requests for exemptions or permits are not contested and are granted as a matter of routine. In recent years, most applications for short-term exemptions are to allow cinemas, ice rinks, snooker centres, Easter carnivals and sporting events, which provide for paid entertainment, to operate on Good Friday. In 2019, an AFL match, featuring the West Coast Eagles, was held on Good Friday, with over 40 000 spectators in attendance.

The process of having to apply for an exemption places an unnecessary and administrative burden on business and government resources. Additional financial costs arise because there is a requirement to publish permits and exemption notices in the *Government Gazette*. Through Streamline WA, which is a red tape-cutting exercise, but a whole lot sharper, better and more focused than the clumsy effort of the previous government, the McGowan government has made a commitment to improve the quality of regulation and remove regulation that is no longer relevant. The Sunday Entertainments Act is out of step with contemporary community standards and attitudes towards holding paid entertainment, sports events and amusements on these days. In summary, the act is no longer relevant and should be repealed.

I observe, as I am about to resume my seat, that I am here for my great-grandfather, who built the Oxford Hotel and was prosecuted for trading on a Sunday and having my great-aunt serve behind the bar. I found that out through a search of the archives. Therefore, my great-granddad would have been very happy with the passage of this bill today by his heirs and successors.

I commend this bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Dr D.J. Honey**.