

20 JUNE 2001

(GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 4)

PORTFOLIO

GAMING & RACING, HUNTER DEVELOPMENT

QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

HUNTER DEVELOPMENT

1. **Mr Pearce asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing and Minister Assisting the Premier on Hunter Development, the Hon Richard Face, MP—**

How many of the 38 companies assisted by the Hunter Advantage Fund were selected directly by the Minister for State and Regional Development?

Answer:

No companies offered assistance through the Hunter Advantage Fund were selected directly by either the Minister for State Development or by the Minister for Regional Development.

The process by which applications are considered for assistance involves review by the Hunter Advantage Fund Assessment Committee. Rigorous economic assessment of these cases is undertaken prior to the submission of applications to the committee. The committee's recommendations are forwarded to the Department of State and Regional Development for consideration and are approved according to permitted financial delegations.

2. **Mr Cohen asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing and Minister Assisting the Premier on Hunter Development, the Hon Richard Face, MP—**

Will the proposed construction of a steel mill on Kooragang Island by Protech Development affect any parts of the island currently covered within the Ramsar area?

Answer:

No. The Protech Development is to be located in the industrial area of Kooragang Island, south of the rail line and Port Waratah Coal Services coal stockpiles. The development should have no effects on the Ramsar area which is north of the rail line on Kooragang Island.

GAMING AND RACING

3. **Mr Oldfield asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing and Minister Assisting the Premier on Hunter Development, the Hon Richard Face, MP—**

Can you provide any figures to compare differences in the level of problem gambling among the patrons of clubs as opposed to hotels and casinos?

Answer:

To date research into the issue of problem gambling has focused on such aspects as assessing the extent of problem gambling and whether specific types of gambling pose a greater threat than others.

I am not aware of any current studies in New South Wales which address this specific question.

4. Ms Forsythe asked the Minister for Gaming and Racing and Minister Assisting the Premier on Hunter Development, the Hon Richard Face, MP—

What is the estimated value of development work on hold as a result of delays in Licensing Court approvals?

Answer:

There is no requirement for applicants to give information on the estimated value of development costs involved in their applications. As such no figures can be obtained.