



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 3

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2008-2009
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3

Gaming and Racing, Sport and Recreation

Friday 17 October 2008

Answers to be lodged by: Wednesday 12 November 2008

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Questions relating to the portfolios of Gaming and Racing, Sport and Recreation

17 OCTOBER 2008, 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Questions from Mr Khan

SPORT AND RECREATION

Boxing:

1. What are the risks of women's amateur boxing that distinguish it from kickboxing and martial arts?
2. Is it this Government's intention to continue to allow registration of female boxers in NSW, while not allowing them to fight in NSW?
3. Why does the Government continue to ban under-14 amateur boxing while allowing combat sports such as martial arts and kickboxing for under-14 year old boys?

Sports Betting

4. What are you doing to protect the intellectual property of the AFL, NRL, ARU and FFA in relation to sports betting in NSW?
5. Is it your intention to continue to let bookmakers wagering on football games played in NSW, and by NSW clubs, to pay nothing back to the clubs or the code?

Major Sporting Events

6. Have you co-operated with the Premier's Office and Events NSW to earmark major sporting events that can potentially be bid for? If so, please list the events currently under bidding?

Weight-for-age restrictions

7. Minister, in the last year, has the Government expanded upon the weight-for-age conditions tested by the NSW Rugby League?

V8 Supercars – Eastern Creek

8. Eastern Creek has recently lost the A1GP and the V8 Supercars, and was once the host of the 500cc Moto GP. What is your Department doing to ensure the venue does not become a white elephant? What plans do you have for Eastern Creek Raceway?
9. Do you contend that **if** the Government was willing to spend the amounts suggested for the V8 street race on Eastern Creek, \$30m funding plus a \$14m track, the venue would be suitable for any international racing event with minimal disruption to the community?

Major Sporting Events

10. As Minister for Sport and Recreation what involvement did your Department have in the failed bid to bring the F1 GP to NSW? Given reports of the event having being economic questionable in Melbourne, is it the calibre of major sporting events we can expect your Department to advise bids for?
11. What advice has your Department given Events NSW about the possibility of hosting the Australian Open in Sydney after its Victorian contract expires?

12. What has happened to the Premier's announcement that Sydney would be bidding for the World Cup in the near future? Has your department been in contact with the FFA about this possibility? If not, has Events NSW sidelined the Department in discussions with the FFA?
13. How do you intend to support the FFA with its bid, considering the FFA stated a lack of support from the NSW Government was the major factor in its failed attempt to host the World Club Championships in 2010 and 2011? Do you have a role in discussions with the FFA, as the chief advocate for sport in the NSW Government?

GAMING AND RACING

Phone Betting – Tom Waterhouse

14. With relation to Tom Waterhouse and phone betting operators, what is the Minister going to do to ensure that the integrity of the race fields legislation is not compromised?
15. What action has been taken by the Government to rectify anomalies in the race fields legislation as identified in the recent Court case with the Waterhouse family?
16. What is the Government's intention in relation to phone betting?
17. Will you give an undertaking that all forms of bookmaking in Australia, TAB, Internet, phone or otherwise, will contribute positively to racing in NSW and ensure the survival and success of the industry at, or above, current standards?

Section 30 – Advertising

18. What correspondence have you had with Clubs NSW following its rejection of a proposal by an interstate corporate bookmaker to install Internet stations in clubs?
19. What is the Government going to do with respect to gaming outlets such as these?

TAB

20. In view of the Victorian Government bringing forward consideration of the renewal of its totalisator licence and given that the company Tabcorp Ltd is the owner of both the Victorian and NSW totalisator licences, will you also be bringing forward consideration of the renewal of the NSW totalisator licence?
21. What was the amount of taxation paid by the TAB Ltd for totalisator operations in the past 12 months and what is expected over the next 12 months?

Race Fields

22. Are you aware of any other potential court action challenging the race fields legislation in NSW? Irrespective of the outcome of any further challenges, will the Department guarantee that there will be no disadvantage to the racing industry because of this Government's poorly constructed legislation?

23. Will the NSW Government join with the Thoroughbred Racing and Harness Racing Industries in the Court proceedings instigated by Betfair in respect of fees levied under the Race fields Legislation?
24. How will this Government ensure the race fields legislation, given assent in June 2008 two years after passing through NSW Parliament is enforced with its original intent?
25. What do you see as an appropriate rate of revenue paid by betting exchanges, considering reports that Betfair pays 24c out of \$100, or 0.24%, in other jurisdictions?

Luxbet

26. What impact will Tabcorp's new LUXBET.COM corporate bookmaking arm to have on racing in NSW?
27. Given that Luxbet will be paying 12.5% on top of any race fields fees applicable in NSW, what are you prepared to do to ensure a comparable level of return to the racing industry from other corporate bookmakers?
28. What is the government doing in relation to NSW stewards, who continue to have no access to betting exchange and corporate bookmaker records they as yet make no contribution to the NSW Government or racing industry?

GHRRA

29. Following the Auditor General's Report into the restructure of Greyhound and Harness Racing, how has the Department ensured that this process will be completed as quickly as possible?
30. Given that funds have been taken from Greyhound Racing NSW to allow for the restructure to continue, do you think it is appropriate for Greyhound Racing NSW to pay disproportionately more than Harness Racing NSW in this restructure?
31. How will you compensate greyhound racing for this blow out in restructuring costs?
32. Do you agree that the merged GHRRA has created problems for the greyhound and harness racing industries? If not, how so?
33. When will the Government announce its response to the Scott Inquiry into the regulation of racing in NSW?
34. Will The Minister consult with the Industry before implementing any of Scott's recommendations?

Thoroughbred Re-structure

35. What is the estimated total cost involved in the restructure of the Thoroughbred Racing Industry?
36. How does the Minister believe the re-structure will affect country thoroughbred racing?

37. Do you think the ability to change distribution of funds should be given to the board? Does this not lend itself to further problems for country racing?
38. Is the Minister now satisfied that the structure and the method for the selection of the Board is the most appropriate given the dissatisfaction being expressed by certain industry participants and selection panel members and calls for the retention of the existing successful structure?

Prize Money

39. Minister, what has been the overall prize money in the thoroughbred racing industry, the greyhound racing industry, and the harness racing industry in New South Wales in each year ended 30 June 2007 and 2008?

Administration

40. What was the total cost of administration of Racing including all boards, tribunals, and authorities for the year ending June 2008?
41. What have been the net savings or costs of the consolidation of the Departments of gaming and Racing, Sport and recreation and certain of the Arts Agencies into the Department of The Arts, Sport and Recreation?
42. How many staff are employed in the Director General's Unit? What is the annual cost of maintaining that Unit and are those costs additional to the previous costs of maintaining individual administrations?

LIQUOR

Liquor Act

43. What has been the total cost of the restructure due to the new Liquor Act? What is the projected final cost of the restructure?
44. What is the projected saving or cost of the new amalgamated authority, in comparison to the previous authorities?
45. What level of increased resources is there in your department following this transformation?
46. What is the total cost of the OLGR e-Accord Newsletters that are being sent out weekly?

Smoking Restrictions

47. In light of the recent decision against Dubbo RSL, what detailed consultation have you had with the Planning and Health Departments? Have the Departments worked together so that clubs and hotels across NSW will not be unfairly disadvantaged?
48. What outcome do you think would be acceptable for the licensed premises of NSW, given the \$450m outlay by clubs renovating to abide by the new smoking restrictions?
49. What input did you and your Department have in allowing clubs to make these changes that are now deemed to be unacceptable to NSW Health?

50. Why were these renovations approved, when they were specifically designed to adhere to the new restrictions, and did the Department coordinate between the clubs/pub, the Department for Planning, and the Department for Health? Has the Department adequately represented those it regulates to the Government?
51. Do you accept responsibility, as Minister for Gaming and Racing, and will you guarantee to represent clubs and hotels so that they will not be disadvantaged by the Government's lack of organisation and cooperation?

Keno in Pubs

52. What was the increase in tax revenue for the Government following the introduction of Keno into hotels in 2007?
53. Can the minister provide details of the changes to tax revenue in relation to the introduction of Keno into hotels over the 2007 and 2008 financial years?

Gaming Machines Review

54. What was the total cost of the Gaming Machines Review released in December 2007?
55. When do you intend to action the recommendations made in the review by way of a substantive re-write of the Act?
56. Do you agree that clubs with Poker Machine Entitlements that expire at the end of this year while the transfer freeze is in effect will lose money if the freeze is not lifted?
57. Will you now undertake to ensure no club or hotel in NSW will lose entitlements or revenue because the Department is not yet taken any action on the report?

MGTMs

58. What is the perceived risk related to multi-terminal gaming machines as opposed to regular gaming machines?
59. Why do you think it is necessary to legislate the rate of 15% of all gaming outlets for club venues?

Muswellbrook

60. In relation to Muswellbrook Race Club's rejected application for a Grant for Capital Expenditure, can you explain why your Department has not responded to the club's request for any explanation, or guidance for a future successful claim?
61. Given the club's repeated request for assistance, will you guarantee now that the club will be contacted in relation to their application as soon as possible?