



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Mary Porter AM MLA (Deputy Chair), Nicole Lawder MLA,
Meegan Fitzharris MLA

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Inquiry into 2014–15 Annual reports

Racing and Gaming

Responses to questions taken on notice at public hearing of 10 November 2015



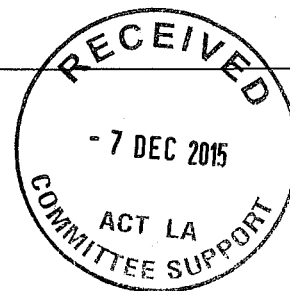
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Inquiry into referred 2014–15 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
Tuesday, 10 November 2015

Asked by Mr Smyth:



In relation to: Finalising Stage 1 of the co-location of racing codes.

THE CHAIR: When you say "the area", what is that?

Mr Engle: I think that is the broader EPIC area and surrounding areas. I will have to take on notice the exact specifications of that, but that is a much longer term project.

THE CHAIR: Has that work commenced?

Mr Engle: I understand that it is in its very early stages. I do not think there have been any major activities that have been undertaken at this point.

THE CHAIR: Is that being done in house or is that being put out as a consultancy?

Mr Engle: I would have to take that on notice. It is being managed in house. In terms of any additional work, I will have to confirm that.

Minister for Racing and Gaming: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Work will be undertaken regarding future development on and around Exhibition Park in Canberra in the context of future land releases. At this point in time, this work has not commenced and no land releases have been identified as part of the Indicative Land Release Program.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Joy Burch", followed by the date "4.12.15".

Date:

By the Minister for Racing and Gaming, Joy Burch MLA



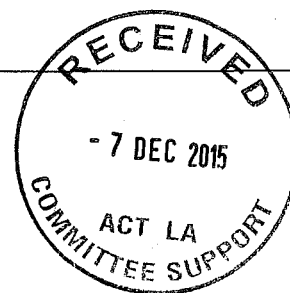
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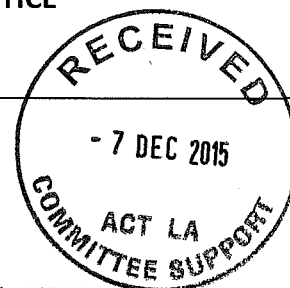
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ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Tuesday, 10 November 2015



Asked by Mr Smyth:

In relation to: Funding of race pools in the ACT in comparison to funding in NSW.

THE CHAIR: To the best of your knowledge, have New South Wales put more money into their prizes recently?

Mr Kalleske: I believe they have, but that is also because of the nature of their industry. It is a bigger industry so it is relative.

THE CHAIR: If an owner of a horse was looking to where he or she might run that horse, prize pools are obviously one of the things you are after. You want the biggest prize. Are we therefore becoming less competitive because Thoroughbred Park does not have as big a pool of money to put into race prizes as New South Wales has?

Ms Burch: You would have to compare the level of racing as well. I think that is what Mr Kalleske was going to—that it is not apples and apples. Certainly what runs in Randwick or down at Flemington may not run in Goulburn, Queanbeyan or Canberra—if there is indeed a track at Goulburn; I am sure there is.

THE CHAIR: But New South Wales prize money is going up and ours is not?

Mr Kalleske: I would need to look into that and get back to the committee on the research.

Minister for Racing and Gaming: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Prize money for major Canberra Racing Club events include:

- \$275,000 for the Mercedes-Benz Canberra Black Opal Stakes;
- \$200,000 for the tab.com.au Canberra Cup;
- \$125,000 for the (Canberra) National Sprint (up from \$100,000 in 2015); and
- \$125,000 for the Canberra Guineas (up from \$100,000 in 2015).

The Canberra Racing Club's 2014-15 Annual Report outlines that the total prize pool for 2015-16 has been increased by \$326,287. The report contains further information on prize money:

<http://www.thoroughbredpark.com.au/sites/default/files/pdfs/Annual-Report-2015-Web.pdf>

The NSW Government and RacingNSW announced details of increases in prize money and changes to taxation on 24 November 2015:

<http://www.racingsw.com.au/default.aspx?s=latest-news-display&id=19017>

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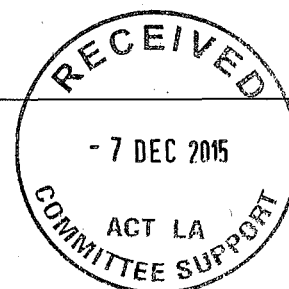


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ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
Tuesday, 10 November 2015



Asked by Ms Fitzharris:

In relation to: Greyhound breeders in the ACT.

Ms FITZHARRIS: Are greyhounds bred here in the ACT as well?

Ms Burch: I think there is one breeder. I am not quite sure. I know we have that information, but it is not to hand. It would be easy to get.

Minister for Racing and Gaming: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

The ACT Greyhound Racing Rules require ACT greyhound breeders to register with Greyhound Racing NSW (GRNSW). The Canberra Greyhound Racing Club has advised that GRNSW have three registered breeders in the ACT.

No greyhound breeders have applied for a Breeding Licence under the *Domestic Animals Act 2000*.

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Signature:

[Handwritten signature] . 4.12.15

Date:

By the Minister for Racing and Gaming, Joy Burch MLA



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ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Tuesday, 10 November 2015

Asked by Mr Smyth:

In relation to: Commencement of the Gaming Machine Reform Amendment Bill.

THE CHAIR: Minister, on page 47 of volume 1 of CMTEDD's annual report, at the first dot point, the second dash, it says that the gaming machine reform amendment bill was passed on 4 June and is currently awaiting commencement. Has it commenced since the publication of the annual report? If not, when will it commence?

Ms Burch: Sorry, I missed half of that question and I do not have the report in front of me. Are you talking about the red tape reduction or the gaming machine reform?

THE CHAIR: The second dash.

Ms Burch: The second. Yes. That started, I think I said in my opening statement, in August this year. It has 118 machines quarantined and 29 machines in general storage. We have had 80 authorisations traded and 20 authorisations forfeited to date.

THE CHAIR: If it commenced in August, why does the annual report, which was not delivered until the end of September, say that it has not commenced?

Ms Burch: Sorry? If the annual report—

THE CHAIR: If the scheme started in August and the annual report was tabled in September, why does the document say it is currently awaiting commencement if it commenced before—

Ms Burch: The commencement date was 31 August, so it is probably just a printing and timing aspect, I would imagine. Certainly it was passed in the Assembly, and the commitment was to get it up and running in August. I have a commencement date of 31 August.

THE CHAIR: But the transmission letter is dated 22 September. Are you saying that between the end of August and 22 September nobody thought to update this?

Ms Burch: The annual report is, I think, up to 30 June. Perhaps we could have made mention in the transmission letter to you, Mr Smyth, but you have the information now that it started on 30 August.

Mr Dawes: Mark, did you want to elaborate any further?

Mr Kalleske: I believe that is correct, from what the minister has said. It would have been just a timing issue in terms of when that information was put in for the draft as opposed to when it was actually cleared and put through.

THE CHAIR: Can we find out when the draft was cleared and put through, please?

Mr Kalleske: Yes.

Minister for Racing and Gaming: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

Consistent with legislative requirements, information included in the Annual Report is current as at 30 June 2015. The Amendment Bill did not commence until August 2015.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature:



Date: 23.11.15

By the Minister for Racing and Gaming, Joy Burch MLA



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Inquiry into referred 2014–15 Annual and Financial Reports ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE Tuesday, 10 November 2015

Asked by Ms Lawder:

In relation to: Online betting.

MS LAWDER: Minister, you talked in the past in annual report and estimates hearings about regulating online betting. Has the government made any moves towards that or had any discussions?.....

Ms Burch: I may ask Sam to comment. There is a ministerial meeting coming up on a Friday. Unfortunately it is at the same time as a disability ministers meeting. I have made the call to attend the disability ministers meeting. Mr Engele is attending the gaming and racing meeting and I believe it is on the agenda.

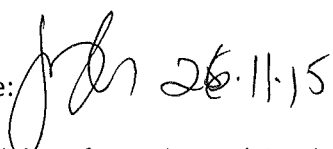
Mr Engele: I will have to confirm but I think it is, yes.

Minister for Racing and Gaming: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The ACT Government supports a national approach to regulating interactive gambling and for the enforcement of harm minimisation and consumer protection measures relating to this type of gambling activity. I have written to the Commonwealth on several occasions to reinvigorate action on online betting regulation since progress on these reforms stalled following the 2013 Federal Election.

Regulation of online betting was discussed at the recent 2015 Australasian Racing Ministers' Conference on Friday, 13 November 2015. I was represented at the conference by Mr Sam Engele, Acting Executive Director Policy, Projects and Legislation, Economic Development.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature:  26.11.15

Date:

By the Minister for Racing and Gaming, Joy Burch MLA