

Our Reference: T0401648

Mr N Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your letter of 21 June 2004, enclosing a petition number 352-04 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly regarding the closure of the TAB Agency at Brisbane Street, Ipswich.

UNiTAB (previously known as the TABQ) was privatised in late 1999 as a means of providing the former Government owned statutory body with the commercial mechanisms to be competitive with the much larger TABs in the southern states. Decisions by UNiTAB in relation to its day-to-day business are now a matter for its Board and shareholders, rather than the Government.

The primary consideration facing organisations like UNiTAB in regard to the continuing operation of an agency is one of financial viability, and the conduct of wagering operations is subject to commercial considerations and demand for the product. UNiTAB have advised the Queensland Office of Gaming Regulation that the agency in question was not performing to a level that justified its continued operation.

Whilst the integrity of UNiTAB's wagering operations are subject to Government regulation through the provisions of the *Wagering Act 1998*, commercial issues, such as the one brought to my attention, are not matters upon which the legislation empowers me to give direction.

Accordingly, I must advise you that the closure of the TAB facility at the location in question is solely a decision for UNiTAB, based on their commercial considerations, and I cannot direct them to any course of action.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

TERRY MACKENROTH