

Question on Notice

No. 1045

Asked on 13 October 2022

MR T NICHOLLS ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE, MINISTER FOR WOMEN AND MINISTER FOR THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE (HON S FENTIMAN) –

QUESTION:

Will the Attorney-General advise (a) when the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation first became aware of allegations of illegal junket operations at the Ville Casino, Townsville and Reef Casino, Cairns, (b) when did its investigation officially start and (c) what is the status of that investigation?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Clayfield for the question.

I am advised the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation (OLGR) became aware of the alleged unapproved agreements involving the Ville Resort-Casino in February 2022 and commenced an investigation which is well advanced. I cannot comment further on this particular matter.

I am advised that OLGR commenced its investigation into the alleged unapproved agreements involving the Reef Hotel Casino (the Reef) in March 2022. The outcome of this investigation resulted in the operator of the Reef being charged with breaching section 84 of the *Casino Control Act 1982*. The Reef entered a guilty plea in the Cairns Magistrates Court on 25 October 2022, and sentencing has been listed for 7 December 2022. Until sentencing has occurred it is not appropriate to provide further comment on the matter.

We have recently seen breaches of the law by casinos across the country, with the ongoing suitability of major casinos to remain licensed brought into question. Casinos in Queensland are required to operate lawfully, ethically and in a way that maintains the highest standards of integrity and public confidence. Queensland casinos remain subject to ongoing compliance monitoring and can expect action to be taken if they fall short of requirements.