Amendments to the *Kava Management Act* passed in Parliament today aim to place a greater focus on harm minimisation in relation to kava possession, supply and consumption.

Minister for Racing, Gaming and Licensing Syd Stirling told Parliament that the amendments would further clarify Government’s intention to eliminate the black market trade in kava and reduce health, social and economic problems related to kava.

"The amendments also clarify Government’s aim to eliminate excessive profiteering from kava sales and ensure that, where possible, profits from sales are used for the benefit of communities rather than for private gain.

"We also want to ensure that local Aboriginal communities become involved in the operation of the kava licensing system in their community, through the development of Kava Management Plans.

"These changes have been made in accordance with National Competition Policy guidelines and follow significant consultation with communities, indigenous organisations, police, health workers and industry."

The amendments include:

- enabling the Licensing Commission to set the price of kava following community consultation, in order to eliminate unacceptable profiteering by licensees;
- giving Community Government Councils greater options in the process of establishing and managing kava licensing in their communities;
- regulation of the number of wholesale and retail kava licenses by the Minister, on recommendation from the Licensing Commission; and
- requiring license applicants to disclose what measures they will take to support the responsible sale and use of kava.

Mr Stirling said other amendments passed aimed to streamline the administration of kava legislation and ensure it complied with National Competition principles.