
 **Hon. JR MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (4.02 pm): I rise to make a statement to the House. Today the parliamentary Ethics Committee tabled its report into a matter of privilege in relation to an alleged failure to comply with the rules adopted by the former Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee in relation to confidentiality of its proceedings and an allegation that I deliberately misled the PCCC by signing an incorrect statement in relation to the destruction of documents tendered to the PCCC. I did not intentionally fail to adhere to the guidelines adopted by the former Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee. However, I should have ensured I was cognisant of the guidelines that were applicable, and for this I apologise unconditionally to the parliament. I accept the committee's findings. As such, I unreservedly apologise for not complying with the rules in relation to maintaining the confidentiality of documents and for incorrectly signing a statement in relation to the disposal of these documents. I have a strong belief in the integrity of the committee system of our parliament here in Queensland and an abiding commitment to ensuring the most important legacy of the Fitzgerald inquiry—the PCCC—remains as a strong and lasting body to oversee the integrity provisions of our legislation. Therefore, I unreservedly and sincerely apologise for any conduct that was not of a standard expected of a person in my position. The people of Queensland expect the highest standards to be met and maintained at all times by members of parliament and ministers of the Crown and I can assure you I will not let them down again.


PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Queensland Times Article

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (4.05 pm), by leave: I refer to the Leader of the Opposition having raised a point of privilege in relation to an article that appeared in the *Queensland Times* on 30 November. The article refers to a source close to the Ethics Committee. Having consulted with my colleagues on the Ethics Committee, I wish to advise the House that comments I made to a *Queensland Times* journalist during the course of a longer conversation that traversed a number of topics appear to be the source of information in his article. At this point I advise the House that I am formally authorised by the Ethics Committee to make this personal explanation to parliament. I am a relatively new member of parliament and the Ethics Committee. On reflection, I see the comments I made to the journalist which I thought at the time were of a general nature and innocuous appear to have given the journalist sufficient information to write the article and I should not have spoken to him at all. I emphasise that at no point did I disclose the contents of the draft committee report referred to in the newspaper article. I apologise to my fellow committee members and to the House and I advise that I have requested the Leader of the House to discharge me from the Ethics Committee.

<ETHICS COMMITTEE

Membership

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.06 pm), by leave, without notice: <I move>

That the member for Ipswich West, Mr Madden, be discharged from the Ethics Committee and the member for Stretton, Mr Pegg, be appointed to the Ethics Committee.>

Question put That the motion be agreed to:

Motion agreed to.

<RACING INTEGRITY BILL

Introduction


 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Sport and Racing) (4.06 pm): <I present a bill for an act to safeguard the welfare of animals>, to ensure the integrity of persons involved in the racing industry and to manage matters relating to betting and sporting contingencies, and to amend the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001, the Bail Act 1980, the Criminal Organisation Act 2009, the Interactive Gambling (Player Protection) Act 1998, the Liquor Act 1992, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the Public Service Act 2008, the Racing Act 2002, the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990 and the Wagering Act 1998 for particular purposes. I

table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Agriculture and Environment Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Racing Integrity Bill 2015.

Tabled paper: Racing Integrity Bill 2015, explanatory notes.

I am pleased to present to the House the Racing Integrity Bill 2015. The primary purpose of the bill is to implement recommendations 1 to 3 of the Queensland Greyhound Racing Industry Commission of Inquiry report to improve integrity standards and to further safeguard the welfare of licensed animals. The bill forms part of the broader racing industry reforms being delivered by this government, with the institution of greater integrity processes and accountability measures being incorporated into the racing industry framework. The bill provides for a new act, the Racing Integrity Act 2015, and amends the Racing Act 2002. Both are aimed at increasing certainty to participants and restoring public confidence in the racing industry.

032 In response to the findings of the commission of inquiry that the current system of self-regulation in the racing industry has failed, the bill establishes the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission—the commission. It is starkly demonstrated in the commission of inquiry report that there is potential for conflict when compliance functions relating to integrity and animal welfare and the commercial operations coincide. The establishment of this commission will give independence to these individual objectives. It will be a statutory body, separate but linked initially to the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing before transferring to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on 1 July 2016.

The QRIC will have the specific functions and necessary powers to fulfil its regulatory responsibilities effectively. These responsibilities include licensing and registering animals, participants, clubs and venues as the licensing body for the racing industry; auditing and investigating licensees; scientific testing via the Racing Science Centre; providing stewarding and further integrity services at race meetings; and monitoring compliance with the proposed Racing Integrity Act and the Rules of Racing, which include the commission's ability to carry out disciplinary action against the licensee.

In the event that further applications to become an approved control body under the Racing Act are received by the minister, the commission will now be required to provide advice to the minister on the applicant's suitability to be a control body for the new proposed code of racing and advise on the commission's ability to carry out its functions to support the new code of racing.

The bill will establish a full-time Racing Integrity Commissioner to lead the commission in its performance of its functions. Two or more deputy commissioners will be appointed to assist the commissioner in this role. This empowers the commission not only to fully commit to the proactive management and identification of issues but also to provide education to the industry to develop its understanding of integrity and animal welfare. This government does not want the issues of the past to be the problems of the future.

In conjunction with the formation of the new commission, the bill amends the functions and powers of control bodies under the Racing Act to focus their activities on the commercial matters involved with the operations of the racing industry. These amendments will maintain the control body's role in allocating race dates and the management of the racing calendar, the allocation of prize money, handicapping activities prior to the race meeting being held and developing and maintaining the rules of racing. The control body will continue to manage licensed clubs with an emphasis on promoting good corporate governance and appropriate infrastructure maintenance.

The bill provides for an expansion and renaming of the Queensland All Codes Racing Industry Board to the Racing Queensland Board. Membership of the board will increase from five to seven members. This will also be the end of the three individual code boards as they are being abolished in this process. This will create a further streamlined and cost-effective model for communicating and decision-making in the industry. Four of the members of Racing Queensland Board will be entirely independent of the racing industry, providing representation across a number of professional fields. Only these independent members will be eligible for appointment as the chairperson and deputy chairperson to the board. The remaining three members will have relevant experience in the racing industry and be drawn—one each—from the three codes of racing.

The bill also abolishes the Racing Animal Welfare Integrity Board and the Racing Disciplinary Board. The dissolution of the Racing Disciplinary Board will be replaced by a new internal review process. The bill will require the commission or the control body to, in the first instance, internally review an original decision made by it. For example, a decision made by the commission to cancel, suspend or not to grant a licence or take disciplinary action against a licensee's original decisions under the bill can be reviewed. Once the internal review process is complete, a person may seek an external review

of a decision by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal or the court in particular circumstances. This internal review process is particularly important as the sector looks to restore public confidence in and improved decision-making. It also brings it into line with the processes in place in other compliance agencies.

The bill will create transparency in the industry by introducing the requirement for the commission and the control body to have strategic and operational plans and to report on the achievements of the goals stated in these plans on a quarterly basis. This is consistent with other Queensland government departments and statutory bodies. The bill also requires that the commission and the control body keep the minister reasonably informed of its current performance, including its current financial performance and financial position, and report immediately to the minister if any issues arise that may directly impact on the commission or the control body's strategic or operational plans.

While the bill retains the functions and powers of the previous compliance and integrity officers, the general powers of authorised officers will mirror the powers of inspectors and authorised officers under the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001. This will provide authorised officers appointed by the commission with the powers of entry to premises and seizure powers where that power relates to the protection of a licensed animal. The bill provides for an authorised officer to issue an animal welfare direction to a licensee or licensees who have breached or may be likely to breach certain provisions under the proposed Racing Integrity Act, the Racing Act, or the ACPA. Failure to comply with the animal welfare direction constitutes an offence under the proposed Racing Integrity Act. This standardisation of powers enables authorised officers to take proactive action for the prevention of an offence against an animal rather than the current reactive approach to animal welfare issues.

The bill provides for new information-sharing powers. These permit an authorised officer, an inspector or authorised officer appointed under the ACPA, or an officer of the Queensland Police Service who has obtained information in regard to an animal or animal welfare offence, to share this information with a relevant officer to allow the matter to be further investigated or for appropriate action to be taken by the relevant agency. These amendments will support the collaboration between the agencies to improve the investigation into and the prosecution of animal welfare offences.

The bill omits chapter 4 of the Racing Act, which includes the accredited facilities provisions. That will eliminate duplication between the Racing Act and the Rules of Racing. It allows the Rules of Racing to dictate testing procedures. This is consistent with other Australian jurisdictions.

The removal of these provisions will not affect the operation of the Racing Science Centre. It will, however, eliminate the legal ambiguity that occurs when the rules around sample collection and testing conflict with the act. The Racing Science Centre, the primary testing facility for Queensland's racing industry, will form part of the commission and will continue to be the facility accredited by the National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia.

The government is committed to ensuring that the racing industry is prosperous and sustainable in the future and that public confidence is restored to the fullest extent possible. The bill delivers on these commitments through the implementation of the specific recommendations from the commission of inquiry report and through the establishment of a greater regulatory framework for the racing industry to improve integrity processes and safeguard the welfare of licensed animals.

At this point, I would like to table the government's response to the Queensland Greyhound Racing Industry Commission of Inquiry.

Tabled paper: Queensland Government response to the Queensland Greyhound Racing Industry Commission of Inquiry, June 2015.

I want to make it clear to the House that the bill will not increase the current requirements placed on industry participants. It does, however, create a more effective framework in which those requirements can be regulated. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. WS BYRNE (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Sport and Racing) (4.18 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Agriculture and Environment Committee

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Agriculture and Environment Committee.

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Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

Hon. WS BYRNE (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Sport and Racing) (4.20 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That under the provisions of standing order 136, the Agriculture and Environment Committee report to the House on the Racing Integrity Bill by 1 March 2016. >

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

~~**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Before I call the next minister, I inform honourable members that I am pleased to acknowledge and welcome to the gallery Dr Uncle Bob Anderson, a well respected Ngugi elder from Mulgumpin in Quandamooka who has family connections to the Minjerribah people.~~

~~**<NORTH STRADBROKE ISLAND PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABILITY AND OTHER ACTS AMENDMENT BILL**~~

Introduction

~~**Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (4.20 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999, the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Land Court Act 2000, the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999 and the North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability Act 2011 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Finance and Administration Committee to consider the bill.~~

~~*Tabled paper:* North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and other Acts Amendment Bill 2015.~~

~~*Tabled paper:* North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and other Acts Amendment Bill 2015, explanatory notes.~~

~~I am pleased to present to the House the Palaszczuk government's three-part plan to begin a new chapter for North Stradbroke Island; to unlock the island for all Queenslanders to enjoy. We want all Queenslanders to experience the island's unique natural and cultural values. We will launch new opportunities for the island, its community and economy. North Stradbroke Island, Straddie to many of us, Minjerribah as it is called by the traditional owners, is the second largest sand island in the world. It is right on Brisbane's doorstep and it occupies a special place in the hearts of many Queenslanders. It is important that we take action now to secure the future of this beautiful island. Many Queenslanders know how great Straddie is and it is time to get the secret out. If members read the *Courier-Mail* yesterday they would have seen that Fodor, the biggest English language travel publisher in the world, has rated the island as one of the top 15 under the radar destinations on the planet.~~

~~This government recognises that the Quandamooka people are the traditional owners of North Stradbroke Island and have a right to use and enjoy their native title land on the island. We have been working closely with the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation, QYAC, the registered native title body corporate, to understand their plans and aspirations for their lands. The Quandamooka people have a deep connection to their land and sea country that goes back over 20,000 years. They want to protect their land and their cultural heritage from the damaging effects of mining. That is not only fair but their right as native title holders. There are spectacular, pristine parts of the island of unbelievable beauty and significant conservation value that are inaccessible because of sprawling mining leases. The Quandamooka people know these places. The rest of us do not. Sadly, there are generations of elders who have never had access to those special places. North Stradbroke Island has the potential to be a world class tourism destination, just like Fraser Island. It is inconceivable that we would allow sandmining on Fraser Island now, but we once did. We used to mine Fraser just like Straddie. Sandmining came to an end on Fraser only in the 1970s. Look at Fraser Island now. It is one of our great tourism assets and it is getting stronger every year. On Fraser Island, visitor activity injects \$360 million through direct overnight expenditure into the economy every year. It is also generating nearly \$648 million through transport, accommodation, food services and retail trade. It contributes to~~